



a publication of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

March-April 2013

## welcome new members

BC Subs  
Biddergy.com  
First Community Federal Credit Union – Capital Ave.  
First Community Federal Credit Union – West Michigan Ave.  
Liberty Tax Service  
Nu-Twist Printing & Graphics Stillwater  
Creative Communications Inc.  
The Fitness Loft

## 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, enabling businesses and people to prosper in an ever-changing 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.*

# eye opener breakfast program & expo

Tuesday, March 12th, 2013

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

## Great Lakes Agenda for Jobs and Competitiveness

### We Make Great Things

Burnham Brook Community Center

*A Collaborative Initiative of Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce*

The Great Lakes Region is the world's most important economic engine. This bi-national region's signature economic assets include one-fifth of the world's fresh water, one-third of the U.S. population, nearly 39% of all U.S./Canadian trade to the world, nineteen of the world's leading research universities and much of its innovative power. In GDP terms, if it was a single country, this region would be the fourth largest economy in the world, with an estimated output of \$5.7 trillion.

Recognizing the importance of the Great Lakes region to the national economy, leaders from more than 30 chambers came together in 2008 to build an agenda to help re-vitalize the region's economy through a re-invigorated relationship with the federal government. This Great Lakes Agenda for Jobs and Competitiveness reflects contributions that a number of chambers made in the development of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy program's The Vital Center, as well as additional concepts that will support the growth of this great trading region. The Coalition is dedicated to building a robust bi-national Great Lakes economy through development of the region's key assets related to its manufacturing strengths and quality of living—transportation infrastructure, talent, innovation, and abundant water and energy. Cooperation between Great Lakes and federal leaders, as well as among federal leaders, is key to the success of the Agenda and the Great Lakes' economic future.

The March Eye Opener Breakfast Program & Expo will be held at Burnham Brook Community Center at 200 West Michigan Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49014.

**Please RSVP by March 7, 2013 to (269) 962-4076 or [office@battlecreek.org](mailto:office@battlecreek.org).**



**269.962.4076**  
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm  
One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A, 34 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017  
[www.BattleCreek.org](http://www.BattleCreek.org)



# calendar of *events*

## March – April

### Friday, March 1

Government Affairs Breakfast,  
8:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, March 7

Professional Development  
Committee, 9:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, March 7

New Member Orientation,  
5:00 p.m., Burnham Brook  
Fitness Loft.

### Friday, March 8

Business Leader Luncheon,  
11:30 a.m., Miller College,  
Seminar Room D.

### Tuesday, March 12

Eye Opener Breakfast,  
7:00 a.m., Burnham Brook.

### Tuesday, March 12

Chamber Board Meeting,  
12:00 p.m.,  
BC Community Foundation.

### Tuesday, March 12

Workplace Education Committee,  
2:00 p.m., Chamber.

### Wednesday, March 13

Business Blind Date,  
11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.,  
Buffalo Wild Wings (Beckley Road).

### Thursday, March 14

Marketing and Awareness  
Committee, 10:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Wednesday, March 20

Silent Observer Committee,  
8:00 a.m., Commerce Pointe.

### Thursday, March 21

Chamber Mixer/Ribbon Cutting,  
5:00 p.m.,  
On Deck Sports Bar & Grill.

### Monday, March 25

Sophomore Future Track  
Committee, 3:00 p.m.,  
BC Community Foundation.

### Wednesday, March 27

Military Affairs Committee  
Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Wednesday, March 27

Business Networking Committee,  
4:00 p.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, March 28

Member 2 Member Committee,  
9:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, April 4

Professional Development  
Committee, 9:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Friday, April 5

Government Affairs Committee,  
8:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Tuesday, April 9

Eye Opener Breakfast,  
7:00 a.m., Burnham Brook.

### Tuesday, April 9

Workplace Education Committee,  
2:00 p.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, April 11

Marketing and Awareness  
Committee, 10:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Friday, April 12

Business Leader Luncheon,  
11:30 a.m., Location TBD.

### Wednesday, April 16

Sophomore Future Track,  
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.,  
Various locations.

### Wednesday, April 17

Silent Observer Committee,  
8:00 a.m., Commerce Pointe.

### Thursday, April 18

Chamber Mixer, 5:00 p.m.,  
CTI Mechanical (New Location).

### Wednesday, April 24

Military Affairs Committee  
Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Chamber.

### Wednesday, April 24

Business Networking Committee,  
4:00 p.m., Chamber.

### Thursday, April 25

Member 2 Member Committee,  
9:00 a.m., Chamber.

## chamber corner



### A Time for New Growth

*Kara E. Beer, Executive Director*

Spring is in the air. All the sights and sounds of the earth coming alive with new growth, lifts the spirit. With all the possibilities for new growth, I find it motivating to clean up the old stuff so the new can stand out.

During April there are many groups organizing clean ups in our community. Schedule time now to join in on the camaraderie and good feelings of making Battle Creek look fresh and new. It will build community pride and our visitors will notice what a nice town we have.

Spring is also a time of fresh attitudes, fresh starts and approaches. It's time to clean up and clear out the accumulated clutter of the last few months. Clean your desk top off and reorganized your area, look through the office work space and brighten it up, determine to live healthier to feel energized or go after a personal goal to communicate better so that when you speak up your audience will be motivated to action.

We have a lot to be proud of in Battle Creek and sometimes we need to look up and see it with fresh eyes to realize it. Our community is a very giving community. Our parks, lakes and recreational opportunities are overwhelmingly abundant for a community our size. I am sure all of you have a few community assets that you feel are worth fighting for. Sometimes it feels like a fight when we have so many economic challenges facing us. However, we can work through these challenges together by speaking up, advocating and pitching in to help. When we look up and envision the potential for new growth, rolling up our sleeves to clear the way is easier. Now is the time to spring into action.

All my best!

## Thursday, March 7, 2013 New Member Orientation

Our first New Member Orientation will be held March 7, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has become a member over the past 12 months to get to know some new faces and learn how to network during the Chamber events! Food, fun, and networking... what could be better?

**Please RSVP to Nadina Williams at [nwilliams@battlecreek.org](mailto:nwilliams@battlecreek.org) to reserve your spot.**

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Burnham Brook Fitness Loft

## Chamber Refund & Cancellation Policy

Please visit [www.battlecreek.org](http://www.battlecreek.org) for our complete policy details.



Tuesday, April 16, 2013

## Sophomore Future Track

On Tuesday, April 16th the Chamber of Commerce will again be partnering with the Battle Creek Community Foundation – College Access Network (BCCAN), as well as all of the local high schools for our **2nd Annual Sophomore Future Track**. You may have hosted a few students last year, or at one point you may have mentioned to me that you would be interested in hosting a few 10th grade students from Battle Creek area schools for a day in the life experience. Or... maybe I just thought this would be a great opportunity for you and for the students!

So, I ask you, would your business/organization be interested in joining us on April 16th?

**Who:** Looking for local businesses to host a group of 10th grade students from Battle Creek area schools.

**Where:** The event begins at the Kellogg Auditorium downtown.

**When:** April 16th (9:00 a.m.–1:45 p.m.\*) Students will be at sites from around 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Here are the fields in which the student may choose from. Once you confirm your participation and number of students you are willing to take, we will be placing each student within their field of choice. At this point, they may choose which location they wish to attend.

**Arts & Communications:** Are you a creative thinker? Are you imaginative, innovative and original? Careers in this area are related to the humanities and performing, visual, literary and media arts. These include: architecture; graphic, interior and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; culinary arts; cosmetology; media advertising and public relations.

**Business, Management, Marketing and Technology:** Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people, planning activities and talking? Do you like to work with numbers or ideas? Careers in this area are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneur, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics and management.

**Engineering/Manufacturing/Industrial Technology/Trades:** Are you mechanically inclined and curious about how things work? Do you enjoy repairing cars, wiring electrical circuits or woodworking? Careers in this area are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install and maintain physical systems. These include: engineering, manufacturing, construction, welding, contracting, auto mechanics and related fields.

**Health Science:** Do you like to care for people or animals that are sick? What's it like to work in a life or death situation like an emergency room or ambulance? Are you interested in diseases and in how the body works? Careers in this area are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment, emergency medicine, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, sports medicine, food science and other health related fields.

**Human Services:** Do you like to work with people to solve problems? Is it important to you to do something that makes things better for other people? If so, careers in this area are related to economic, political and social systems. These include: education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services and personal services.

**Natural Resources & Agri-Science:** Are you a nature lover? Do you enjoy hunting and fishing? Do you like to garden or mow the lawn? Are you interested in protecting the environment? Careers in this area are related to agriculture, the environment and natural resources. These include: agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, biology, landscape architecture, etc.

Would you be willing to take students on April 16th and show them what your business is all about? How about discussing what is needed to be successful in your career? Or would you just like to make a big impact in the youth of our community and enrich their knowledge of what great businesses/careers we have here in Battle Creek. If so, we would love to have you be a part of our 2nd Annual Sophomore Future Track.

Please let Kara Beer know if you are committed to April 16th and how many students you would be willing to take. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email [kbeer@battlecreek.org](mailto:kbeer@battlecreek.org) or by phone (269) 962-4076.





# event highlights



**Humane Society of South Central MI** completed the construction of their cat solarium. This construction, funded by the Delmar and Audria M. Olson Family Foundation and Humane Society donors, will help reduce incidence of upper respiratory illness and ringworm, and lower levels of stress for the cats in their facility. They can be reached at: (269) 963-1796, [www.hs-scm.org](http://www.hs-scm.org).



**Liberty Tax Service** opened a new office in Battle Creek. Liberty Tax Service provides computerized income tax preparation, electronic filing, and refund loans. With an emphasis on customer service including audit assistance, a money back guarantee and free tax return checking. Contact Liberty Tax Service in Battle Creek for details. They can be reached at: (269) 979-9800, [emazzone@libertytax.com](mailto:emazzone@libertytax.com) and [www.libertytax.com](http://www.libertytax.com).

## eye opener program & expo

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

### What's New at Binder Park Zoo?

*Burnham Brook Community Center*



Join the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at **Burnham Brook Community Center at 7:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.** for the monthly Eye Opener Breakfast Program. Our program for the April Eye Opener will be Binder Park Zoo. Participants will hear the most recent happenings at Binder Park Zoo as well as an update on all the animals, education programs, exhibits, etc. Diane Thompson, President and CEO will also be sharing the history of Binder Park Zoo as well as the economic impact made on Battle Creek as a result. We encourage you to bring a friend to this event.

Diane Thompson President and CEO of Binder Park Zoo: After receiving her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University, Diane was the President and CEO of the Miller Foundation, serving the foundation for 12 years. Diane Thompson was named President and CEO of Binder Park Zoo in September of 2012.

Jenny Burnett Director of Wildlife, Education, and Conservation: Jenny has been with the Zoo since 1986.

Dr. Judilee Marrow the Zoo Veterinarian: Dr. Judilee Marrow began her work at Binder Park Zoo in October 2012 coming to us from National Zoo in Washington, D. C.

The Eye Opener Breakfast will take place at Burnham Brook Community Center (200 W. Michigan Ave) Business Networking Expo begins at 7:00 a.m.; Program is from 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m., and the Expo will continue from 8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

**Please RSVP your attendance to [office@battlecreek.org](mailto:office@battlecreek.org) or by calling the Chamber (269) 962-4076.**

Attendance to Eye Openers is included in your membership and potential members may attend for a minimal cost of \$10. Call today to learn more.

*Binder Park Zoo... One of America's Best Zoo's Right in Your Own Backyard!* Mission: Binder Park Zoo's mission is to nurture empathy, understanding, and conservation of nature.



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# member's business spotlight

## Kara Completes First Year at Institute

The Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, announced that Kara E. Beer, Executive Director, of the B. C. Area Chamber of Commerce has recently completed her first year at Institute for Organization Management, a four-year nonprofit leadership training program at the University of Arizona in Tucson. These individuals have the knowledge, skills, and dedication to achieve professional and organizational success in the dynamic association and chamber industries.



Contact information: (202) 463-5682, [www.institute.uschamber.com](http://www.institute.uschamber.com).

## Lawrence Productions Relocates

Lawrence Productions has relocated its headquarters to 6146 West Main Street, Suite A, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. The move became official on January 1st. Lawrence Productions main facility had been located in downtown Grand Rapids since 2005. Their Grand Rapids lease expired on December 31st.



Lawrence Productions, a nationally-awarded full-service film, video and audio production company was formed in Battle Creek in 1985.

Contact information: (269) 903-2395, [www.lpi.com](http://www.lpi.com).

## American 1 CU's new Instant Issue program raises \$4,759.50 for charity

As part of American 1 Credit Union's new Instant Issue program, American 1 members are given the option of choosing the card image for their debit or Visa cards for an additional fee. Five of the card images available are charity focused cards with 50% of the card image fee going to a specific charity. Over 1,550 American 1 members chose to upgrade their card image to a charity card, donating \$4,759.50 to the charities listed above!



Contact information: (269) 968-2207, [www.american1cu.org](http://www.american1cu.org).

## Great Deals Magazine

Great Deals Magazine—celebrating 10 years of helping businesses grow and consumers save—announces a special Battle Creek section!



As part of their 10th anniversary, businesses in Battle Creek will be able to take advantage of a reduced price to be included in the Battle Creek portion of their magazine. As a special promotion, Great Deals is also offering a 5% discount to Chamber members.

Contact information: (269) 321-0612, [www.greatdealsmagazine.com](http://www.greatdealsmagazine.com).

## KCC's Faculty Art Exhibition

Kellogg Community College will display art created by the college's Arts and Communication faculty members as part of the KCC Faculty Biennial Art Exhibition February 11th through March 22nd.

KCC art professor and DeVries Gallery coordinator Ryan Flathau said he expects the exhibit to showcase the works of approximately 10 artists representing multiple visual arts disciplines.



Contact information for the exhibit: Ryan Flathau. (269) 965-3931 ext. 2559, [flathaur@kellogg.edu](mailto:flathaur@kellogg.edu).

## Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Staff

- Kara E. Beer** – Executive Director
- Debbie Baker** – Executive Assistant/Office Manager
- Jennifer Blank** – Accountant
- Emma Gunnett** – Community Information Specialist
- Sara Macon** – Program Coordinator
- Kristi Trader** – Manager of Leadership
- Nadina Williams** – Membership Coordinator

Friday, March 8th, 2013

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## March Business Leader Luncheon Series presents...



The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes Dr. Dennis Bona ED.D. President, Kellogg Community College who was formerly the College's Vice President for Instruction. Prior to that, he held various positions at KCC, including Dean of Career and Occupational Education, Director of the Regional Manufacturing and Technology Center, Director of Trades and Technology, and Instructional Manager of Industrial Welding. He has also worked as an

adjunct faculty member at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University, as a professional consultant, a grant writer, and a presenter/speaker. Dr. Bona received an Associate of Arts and Sciences in Welding Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Trade and Technical Education from Ferris State University, and a Master's and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. The program will start at 12:00 noon.

Members: \$20; Potential members: \$25

**RSVP by Wednesday, March 6th to (269) 962-4076 or office@battlecreek.org.**

Thursday, April 11, 2013

## 2013 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event

*Augusta National Guard Armory*

(3367 West Dickman Road, Battle Creek, MI 49037)

Join us April 11, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., for a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses at the Augusta National Guard Armory. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.



This hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the MI Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, NBC News, and other local partners.

All job seekers and employers go to [www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events](http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events) scroll down and click on Battle Creek/Fort Custer, MI.

**For registration questions, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call (202) 463-5807.**

Friday, April 12, 2013

## What is wrong with Washington?

*U.S. Chamber of Commerce to speak at April 12th Business Leader Luncheon*



Learn about and engage in an interactive dialogue with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on the Federal issues vital to your business and the economic health of the country. From taxes and spending to immigration; international trade to energy, Ben Taylor is the Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber's Great Lakes Regional Office. To achieve the U.S. Chamber's public policy goals, Ben cultivates and maintains legislative, political, media and grass tops resources throughout

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Ben leads the U.S. Chamber's efforts to strengthen its relationships with Members of Congress through member businesses, associations, and local and state chambers of commerce across the region.

Ben will help luncheon participants to download the latest DC buzz in a fun and compelling way, while encouraging your feedback, questions and concerns.

**Please register for the April 12, 2013 Business Leader Luncheon with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by emailing [office@battlecreek.org](mailto:office@battlecreek.org) or by calling today at (269) 962-4076.** Members may attend this special luncheon for \$25 if registered by April 5. Potential members may attend this luncheon for \$30.



Friday, May 17, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## Armed Forces Day Luncheon

*HDI Federal Center*

The Military Affairs Committee of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon. During the event, we will present General of the Army Omar N. Bradley Service Awards along with several other distinguished military acknowledgements. We will also be presenting a Community Service Award to an individual who has provided outstanding service to our community.

For more information about this event and how to be a sponsor please contact the Chamber. We hope you will be able to join us for this special community luncheon on May 17th .



Thursday, March 21, 2013

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## March Chamber Business After Hours/Mixer

Hosted by On Deck Sports Bar and Grill

(225 W. Michigan Ave. Battle Creek)

On Deck Sports Bar & Grill welcomes you to join in on the March Madness! Owners Rob Buckhannon and Kelly DeMoss are bringing some West Coast flair to Battle Creek's sports bar scene. The Bar & Grill—located in downtown's west end—serves quality bar food selections amid 30 big screen televisions. Rob wanted to provide a type of restaurant that he was missing when he moved back to Michigan from the west side of the country three years ago.

"The menu will include upscale pub food with my own little twist" said Executive Chef Jeff Shaver who previously worked at Schuler's Restaurant and Pub in Marshall. Steaks will be hand-cut, and soups and salsas will be homemade and prepared with locally grown food. Daily specials will be offered, made fresh with a focus on healthy options.

Refreshments will be served at the Mixer.

RSVP by Tuesday March 19 at [office@battlecreek.org](mailto:office@battlecreek.org) or (269) 962-4076.

Thursday, April 18, 2013

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## April Chamber Business After Hours/Mixer

Hosted by CTI Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

(1320 E. Columbia Ave. Battle Creek)



Join us in celebrating our NEW LOCATION!

CTI Mechanical Contractors, Inc. began helping people with their residential, commercial, and industrial heating and cooling needs locally in 1998. The company is owned and operated by Tina and Chad Kyger. Tina is a Harper Creek native, whose grandfather operated a heating and cooling company in Ceresco, and whose father was an electrician for Motor Shop Electrical in Battle Creek for 41 years. Chad's great-grandfather and grandfather operated heating and cooling businesses, and his father still operates his heating and cooling business in southern Indiana. Thanks to loosely interpreted child labor laws, Chad had years of installation and service experience by the time most people are embarking on a career path. The operations side of the business has been housed in a leased building on East Michigan since inception, with the office moving when Tina and Chad moved. In recent years, the office has been on 6 1/2 Mile Road. With the recent purchase of the old Central Michigan Press building at 1320 East Columbia, operations and administration will be under one roof. We are very excited about the increased efficiency, elbow room, and visibility the new location will provide.

Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by Tuesday, April 16 at [office@battlecreek.org](mailto:office@battlecreek.org) or (269) 962-4076.

*woohoo!* that's how I felt when I experienced outstanding service from KCFCU!

“Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union is part of our family... our kids bank there—our employees bank there. This is our one-stop shop for banking and their people are just so friendly.”

*picture this...*  
**open a KCFCU checking account**  
 during the month of March  
 and you will be entered to win a  
**Crystal Mountain Get-away**  
 in beautiful northern Michigan!\*

Kathy Sue Dunn  
Atlas Sales

**KELLOGG COMMUNITY**  
federal credit union

[www.kelloggfcu.org](http://www.kelloggfcu.org) | 800.854.5421 | celebrate the difference.

\*Get-away prize is a \$500 gift certificate to the Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa in Thompsonville, Michigan. No purchase necessary. Anyone who opens a first time checking account between March 1 and March 31 will be entered to win automatically. All others may use the online form found at [www.kelloggfcu.org](http://www.kelloggfcu.org) to enter. Odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Must be at least 18 years old to enter; one entry per person. Please note: gift certificate prizes may be taxable. Consult a tax professional for advice. Federally insured by the NCUA.

# PUB & GRUB CRAWL



### Thank you to our Sponsors and Host Locations for the Chamber's 1st Annual Pub & Grub Crawl!

Sponsors: Worksquared, BCBS/BCN, Atlas Sales, Battle Creek Downtown Partnership, Calhoun County/Battle Creek Visitors Bureau, On Deck Sports Bar & Grill, Yarrow Golf & Conference Resort, NU-Twist Printing Embroidery/Stillwater Creative Communications Inc

Host Locations: A Taste of India, Arcadia Ales Brewing Co, Cricket Club, Culvers of Battle Creek, Buffalo Wild Wings, On Deck Sports Bar & Grill, Malia's Mediterranean Bistro

# member anniversaries

## 15 years

Ampco Parking  
Mexicali Restaurant

## 10 years

Battle Creek Memorial Association  
Bloom Dairy, Inc.  
Conrad Insurance Agency  
Crossroads Church  
Gersten Interstate Systems, Inc.  
Hayes & Associates, Inc.  
Marshall Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp.  
NuTwist Printing/Stillwater  
Parks Drugs, Inc.

## 5 years

Bronson Plating Company  
Culligan Water Condition  
Kelly Services  
Sylvan Learning of Battle Creek

## Wednesday, March 13, 2013 Join us for our second date! Business Blind Date that is...

*Buffalo Wild Wings (inside Lakeview Square Mall)*



**Business Blind Date** (Quarterly) – A business blind date: exciting, open, and daring and without complications or uncontrolled risk. In this concept we gather 20-30 people at a hot spot to be surprised and inspired from each other. There are several connections made on these business related blind dates. Register for lunch and we will arrange for you to have lunch with potential new clients, friendships, board members or more. Lunch with a purpose.



How it will work: Seating will be assigned and is designed to pair you with people you might not already know or currently do business with. There will be guided networking questions or discussion topics at each table to help keep the conversation flowing.

Cost: \$20 per person to be paid to the Chamber prior to event\*

Times available:

- First Seating: 11:00 a.m.
- Second Seating: 12:30 p.m.

**Step 1:** Call or email the Chamber office to register for the March 13th Business Blind Date (let us know what time you would like to dine). (269) 962-4076 or email office@battlecreek.org \*The \$20 cost can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Credit cards can be taken over the phone.

**Step 2:** Arrive for your scheduled date at Buffalo Wild Wings with business cards, a great attitude, a healthy appetite, and the desire to meet new and exciting people.

**Step 3:** Build on existing relationships, create new friendships, and grow your business network.

# spectacular ambassador



**Karen M. Rial** has been involved with the Chamber through corporate business affiliations and has been a member via Partners Insurance Agency of Southwest Michigan. Karen has served as a Chamber Ambassador since 2008 and has been a licensed producer (insurance agent) for 10 years and an Advanced Chartered Benefit Consultant. Karen enjoys being part of the Chamber—welcoming new businesses into the community and sharing the benefits of being a member. "Being a Chamber member is a bargain for all that is received in return! Being a member gives me a better picture of the services provided by the businesses in the community and their latest achievements and their mission in our community. I have met some wonderful folks and made some new friends, as well as, helped with connections in the agency business and the agency clients!"



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
College of Aviation

## College of Aviation 3rd Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser Event



### • Saturday, June 15

Registration at 12:30 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. Shot Gun Start  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

### • Cedar Creek Golf Course

14000 Renton Road Battle Creek

### • \$75 per golfer

Proceeds go to the College of  
Aviation Student Organizations

### • 18 Holes

Prizes & surprises: longest drive,  
closest to the pin, longest putt

**Register by June 1st at  
wmich.edu/aviation  
or 269.964.6375**





## Chamber's Member Benefit Pays Out Dividend

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that several members have earned over \$43,250 in dividends through the Accident Fund Insurance Company of America workers compensation group program. Congratulations to our chamber members who participate in the program!

Since the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is a designated group, our members receive 5 percent up-front savings on Accident Fund workers compensation insurance rates. Plus, when the group performs well, participating chamber members are eligible for dividends.

In January 2013, our chamber's group program was reviewed and it was determined that we earned an 11.0 percent dividend for members that participated in the October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 program. The \$43,250 in dividends is being paid to nearly 35 participants, so the average dividend to participating members is over \$1,235.

The group will be reviewed again this same time next year for another possible dividend distribution. Since 2004 Accident Fund Insurance Company of America has paid participating Battle Creek Area Chamber members dividends in excess of \$737,900.

To join the Accident Fund groups program through our chamber, contact us for an Accident Fund Insurance Company of America agent in your area, or find an agent at [www.accidentfund.com/groups](http://www.accidentfund.com/groups).

Please note: You must be a member in good standing to participate in this program.

### Did You Know?

If your workers compensation yearly premium is more than **\$7,500** your Chamber membership dues could pay for themselves in group program discounts.



*"It's always my goal to make a difference for our customers."*

**Theresa Ross**  
Group and Association Specialist,  
and a WorkSafe Person

## Our Goal — Your Safety

- Upfront premium discounts
- The potential for annual dividends
- Loss control and safety awareness tools

[AccidentFund.com/groups](http://AccidentFund.com/groups)



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**Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce**

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

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## Save the Date **Annual Business Excellence Awards**

**When:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from 5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Yarrow Golf & Conference Resort

**Cost:** Individual tickets – \$25 person  
(Corporate sponsorships and ticket packages available)

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 2013 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). The Silent Observer "Harley Simmons Award", the Battle Creek Area Young Professionals "Battle Creek's Future 15 Award," Regional Health Alliance's "Workplace Wellness Recognition Award", Nonprofit Alliance at Kellogg Community College's "Nonprofit Excellence Awards," and the Urban League of Battle Creek's "Randall Brock Memorial Award."



## *Save the Date* Monday, June 3, 2013 **Chamber Annual Golf Outing** *Yarrow Golf & Conference Center*

Box lunch available prior to 1:00 p.m. tee time

Sponsorships and Packages Available