

Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce

The noon meeting was called to order by President Nick Pawlenty on October 7th, 2026 at Maple Lake Legion. There were 13 voting members present, and 3 guests. Current paid membership is 75.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Linda Rassat and second by Denise Blizil to approve the minutes from the September 6th, 2026 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Hennen provided the treasurer's report. Balances were read as follows: Chamber checking account total was \$16,409.63 with \$12,407.50 for the general fund and \$4,002.13 for the Industrial Development Group. Gearhead checking total was \$26,356.93, with \$24,702.55 for Gearhead and \$1,654.38 for the Snow Machine event. Maker's and Grower's Checking is \$22,812.07, and Lord Abbett Investment \$8,975.03. A motion was made by Rhonda Pagel and second by Mike Nix to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Government Report: 2027 Preliminary budget has been passed. The city is currently working on utility budgets. Truth in Taxation hearing is December 1st.

School Report: No Update.

- From last meeting: Superintendent Mike Rowe explained a constitutional change that will be on the ballot this November to increase the percentage given to schools from an iron range fund. Currently the distribution is only 2.5%, with the constitutional change increasing the amount to 4%. **THIS DOES NOT RAISE YOUR TAXES**, and this fund has been in existence since the 1800's. It is just simply increasing the amount to give to the schools. Vote yes in November, as a blank ballot goes as a "no" vote.

Committee Reports:

Gearhead Get Together: No update.

Industrial Development Group: No update.

Maker's and Grower's Market: 2026 season has concluded. Year 5 in 2027 is currently being planned.

Old Business:

Raffle Fundraiser: Sales were up from past years, with our overall net profit being around \$2,300. If you still have your tickets, even if unsold, return them to Caleb Haag at Lake Central Insurance Services ASAP. Winners were drawn as follows:

- \$500- Alice Schupp
- \$250- Julie Kreitz
- \$100- Dan Zahler

Thank you to everyone that sold your tickets and helped raise money for the chamber!

50th Saint Patrick's Day Parade: The Parade committee has decided to move forward with the petting zoo, Chalk artist, scavenger hunt, and the business bingo punch card. If you have any ideas regarding these events, please stop at The V By HH on Wednesday, October 28th at 5pm to give your ideas and help with the events!

Fall Craft Sale: Date is set for Saturday, November 14th 9am to 2pm. We currently have 29 vendors booked

Christmas in Maple Lake: There are some volunteers with the Maple Lake Library that would help with the event, but they will not chair the event. We are looking for someone to Chair the event for 2026. If nobody volunteers, the event will be canceled. If you are interested in chairing the event, please contact Kathy Hennen or Caleb Haag.

New Business:

Business Trick or Treat: Event will be taking place on Friday, October 30th from 3-5pm. If you wish to participate, contact Rhonda Pagel. Deadline for submitting your business to be listed with the ad in the paper is October 16th.

Our next meeting will be held at Noon on November 4th, 2026 at Madigan's. A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Rassat and second by Caleb Haag.

Caleb Haag, Secretary