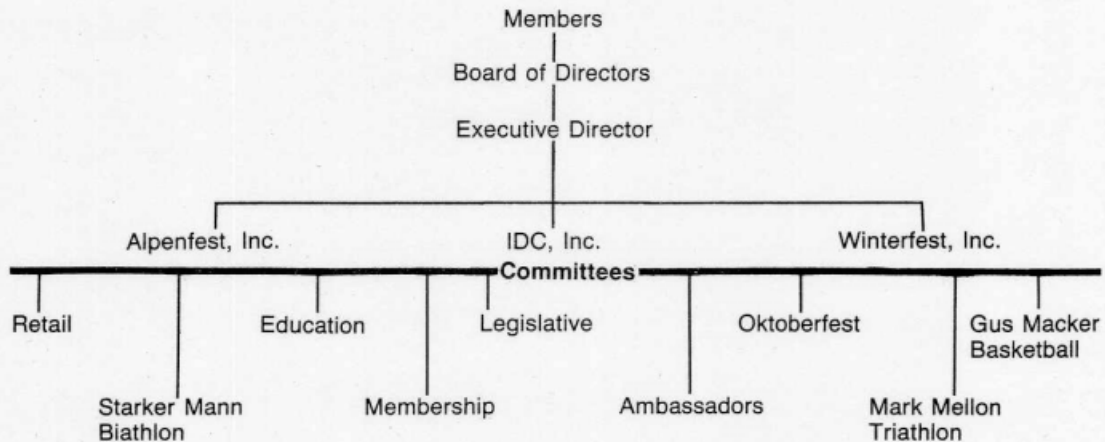


## ORGANIZATION



## CHAMBER: PEOPLE

### *Committee work goes on quietly, but effectively*

**I**t must be understood that the chamber of commerce is people," a Gaylord / Otsego County Chamber of Commerce brochure states.

The 440 members of the organization as well as a board nominating committee submit names of potential directors to govern the agency.

Actual election of new directors, however, is by the officers and board of directors. Two of the 11 board seats are "at-large" and filled annually through board appointments.

New officers and board members are installed at the chamber's annual dinner-dance.

The board of directors works

hand in hand with the chamber executive director.

Assisting the director are committees and corporations.

The chamber has three corporations: Alpenfest, Inc., the Industrial Development Corporation, Inc., and the Winterfest, Inc.

Beyond those corporations, much of the chamber's work is funneled through nine committees: retail; education; legislative; Oktoberfest; Gus Macker Basketball; Starker Mann Biathlon; membership; ambassadors, and Mark Mellon Triathlon.

Those committees draw from the general membership and the community for workers to complete tasks.

Chamber members as a whole work to establish and nurture relationships. Among them is the sister city relationship with Pontresina, Switzerland.

That relationship, which spans 25 years, has featured gift exchanges, including the Alpine mountain stone which sits here on the courthouse lawn.

Other gifts between the cities have included the horns of an ibex, a rare animal found only in Switzerland.

Gaylord, in return, has given Pontresina a wood carved replica of the Alpine Village skyline, a statue of Herr Gessler, and an American flag flown over the White House.

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