

## Bank's leaders take on new responsibilities

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THE BANK OF  
northern michigan

The Bank of Northern Michigan has announced a new management alignment, with three key staff members taking on new responsibilities with the bank and its parent company as of Jan. 1, 2010.



Bank founder Robert Bleyaert, who has served as the financial institution's president and chief executive officer, has been named vice chairman responsible for risk, credit and finance at Lake Michigan Financial Corp. Lake Michigan Financial is the parent company

for The Bank of Northern Michigan — which opened in Petoskey in 2000 and added a Traverse City office in 2006 — as well as The Bank of Holland.

In a Monday release, Bleyaert's appointment was described as a strategic move meant to further strengthen Lake Michigan Financial's senior management team and position both banks for continued growth. Bleyaert will remain in Petoskey.

Kathy Erber, senior vice president for The Bank of Northern Michigan, will continue her leadership role as the bank's Petoskey market manager. She is also taking on additional duties.



John D. Paul Jr. will fill the president and chief executive officer slots which Bleyaert is vacating. Paul joined the bank in 2006 as executive vice president and market manager for its Traverse City office. Prior to that, he held various senior positions in banking, including stints as president of Old Kent Bank's Traverse City operations and as Fifth Third Bank's community president in Kalamazoo.

"We are pleased to have John accept the

position of president and CEO of The Bank of Northern Michigan," Bleyaert said. "Together with Kathy Erber, we have broadened the depth of our management team in Petoskey and will continue to provide our clients with the finest banking services in Northern Michigan."

Added Paul: "The Bank of Northern Michigan team has built a foundation of client service by providing solid, prudent financial counsel. My goal is to build on the banks' success and continue the 'Person to Person' banking tradition that we are known for in the Northern Michigan business community.

