



ICCA August/September 2005 Newsletter

President's Letter

Stephanie Standard, Burlington/West Burlington
ICCA President

Dear ICCA Associates,

The summer months are dwindling away on us and fall will soon be here. Sending the children back to school, leaves turning their colors, the smell of autumn in the air – it's not that far away!

One other thing to get prepared for in the fall is the ICCA Fall Conference!! This year the conference will be held in the southeast corner of Iowa – Burlington, Iowa. Brenda Levitt and I are working on what we think will be an excellent conference this year filled with great speakers and great entertainment as well! Look for more information about the conference to come to you. For those of you who have not attended an ICCA conference, you should. It's a good time and very informative with a lot of round table discussion, speakers with great information and it's an excellent opportunity to pick the brain of a person who is in your position. Chamber of Commerce assistants are more alike than you may think. The networking is invaluable!

If you have not been to an ICCA Conference, you really should consider it or talk to your Executive about going. Once you come to one of them, you will want to go every year! I would encourage any of the communities to car pool to the event. We have one great relationship that was formed from two people who attended the conference two years ago as "new" attendees and now they ride together every year! It's nice to have someone by your side when you are going to someplace new and with new people.

For all the "regulars" who attend, ask neighboring communities if they would like to attend, tell them about ICCA and network with them. It really is a great organization! For those who may not have this conference budgeted, check out our scholarship opportunities on our website at www.iowachamber.net.

Speaking of the website, ICCA now has a spot on the ICCE website! Go to the website and check it out. If there is something that you feel would be a benefit on the website, let Sara Mentzer know at smentzer@cedar Rapids.org and we'll get it up there!

That wraps it up for now. Look for conference registrations coming soon. Enjoy the change of the seasons in your little corner of Iowa!

STILL THINKING OF JOINING ICCA?

The time is now! Iowa Chamber of Commerce Assistants (ICCA) is offering a special to all chambers throughout Iowa. It's a deal you can't afford to resist. Act now and your chamber's 2005-2006 membership, plus registration for your assistant to attend the ICCA Annual Conference will cost only \$120.00. That's a savings of \$30.00 and an opportunity for your staff to continue their professional development by learning from a group of peers representing chambers all over the state.

ICCA promotes and improves the professional standards, efficiency and stature of organization assistants, staff members and those persons, salaried or volunteer, whose interests are directly allied with the Chamber of Commerce effort in Iowa. The organization is here for you – why not take advantage of it. Call Sara at 319-398-5317.

WILL CONFERENCE BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ME?

Sandy Scheckel, Dewitt

Soon ICCA will be holding its Annual Conference. This year the conference will be held in Burlington/West Burlington, October 12th – 14th. This is my third year as a member of ICCA. I have become a board member and have been assigned to work on communications for our ICCA Newsletter. The first conference I attended was held in downtown Des Moines in 2003. Just attending this conference was a big step in my life. My personality tends to be quite reserved. For me to drive alone to Des Moines to attend a conference, where I knew absolutely no one, was way out of my comfort zone, but I'm happy I forced my self to go. The warm welcome and immediate acceptance by other seasoned conference attendees quickly helped to reassure me that I had made the right decision. There was a common bond among us...Chamber Work. Those attending conference represented many chambers throughout Iowa. All were willing to share thoughts and ideas and learning from others. I gained valuable knowledge and thoroughly enjoyed the conference. The speakers were able to give me new ideas to take back to the office and the tour of the city opened my eyes to what is happening and the growth-taking place in our great capital of Iowa. Last year's Annual Conference was held in Fairfield, a place I might have never visited on my own, but once again the experience and knowledge gained was very beneficial. I hope by sharing my experience, I have place a desire for you to consider attending this year's ICCA Annual Conference. I'll be waiting to meet you. Hope to see you October 12th. If you have any questions, please email me at sscheckel@dewitt.org.

UPDATED WEBSITE

We now have our own pages on the ICCE website!

Go to www.iowachamber.net and click on the ICCA "swoosh" at the bottom of the left side column.

From there you can view our marketing brochure, get contact info from our member directory, find out what's been happening with our organization by clicking on past quarterly newsletters, peruse board minutes, get updated on the annual conference, and find office tips at Linking Assistants.

The update gives ICCA a more professional presence and provides better access to ICCA membership information. Please feel free to use our updated pages as a recruitment tool by referring interested assistants to the website or by copying the membership brochure for mailing along with a personal invitation to join our organization.

If you have any questions or encounter problems with links, etc. please contact Joy Nicholson at the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber at jnicholson@cedarrapids.org or 319/730-1406.

ALREADY A MEMBER? ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR

How about picking up the phone and calling a neighboring chamber. Let them know why you're excited about ICCA and the upcoming Annual Conference. Maybe a suggestion to carpool would encourage a reluctant assistant to look into attending the conference. The new ICCA website can provide detailed information, just dial up www.iowachamber.net. We can let others know that ICCA is serious about its commitment to educating chamber staff. The Annual Conference provides professional speakers who gear their information toward improving the skills of chamber employees.

In a recent survey sent out to chamber executives and their assistants, some of the comments returned include:

- Membership in ICCA is an investment in **that** person and an investment in the future of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Every time someone from the office participates in a conference valuable information is brought back to the chamber membership and the rest of the staff.
- Our chamber assistant came back from conference with a network of colleagues that has proven invaluable.
- The overall morale from our assistant being able to get out of the office and improve professionally was more valuable than any monetary figure attached.

Feedback from these surveys has provided valuable ideas for increasing the advantages for assistants attending this year's conference. Thank you to all chambers participating.

ICCA AWARDS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FOUR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation is the lucky recipient of a 2005 ICCA Conference scholarship. They were one of the 29 Iowa Chambers that returned ICCA Membership Survey (see related article). This scholarship enables their assistant to attend the ICCA Conference scheduled for October 12-14 in Burlington/West Burlington.

ICCA has four more 2005 conference scholarships available. For a chance to receive a conference scholarship, just complete the ICCA Scholarship application and submit it along with your conference registration form to Sara Mentzer, C/O Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, 424 First Avenue N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1196, fax 319-398-5228, or email smentzer@cedarrapids.org. Deadline is October 1. The scholarships are for the registration fees only. Transportation, lodging and miscellaneous expenses are not included.

This year's conference promises to be outstanding. Board members, Stephanie Standard and Brenda Levitt, have lined up exceptional speakers and have planned a conference that will be educational yet have some time for networking, growing friendships and having some fun. Be sure to check out the conference schedule!

SPECIAL OFFERED TO NON-MEMBERS

If you are not yet a member of ICCA, we would love to have you join us and support an organization that represents your industry. ICCA is again offering a special rate for new members. Join ICCA now and receive your 2006 ICCA membership and registration to the 2005 fall conference for a flat rate of \$120. This is a \$30 savings. Don't pass up this opportunity for personal and professional growth and the rewards of friendship and camaraderie that result from connecting with your peers from across the state.

Scholarship is for ICCA Conference registration fee only.

Information must be received by October 1, 2005.

Applicant Information:

Name _____

Position _____

Years experience in chamber/organization work _____

Organization Information:

Chamber name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Board President or Organization CEO

"Our organization supports this application, and I will recommend that the budget for next year include adequate funds to allow continued participation in ICCA."

Signature

Applicant

"If I am a scholarship recipient, I agree to assist ICCA and give my permission for use of my name and image in promotion."

Signature

Return to:

ICCA
C/O Sara Mentzer
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
424 First Avenue N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1196

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT**Chamber Name:**

Red Oak Chamber of Commerce

Location:

307 East Reed Street

Red Oak, IA 51566

(712)-623-4821

www.redoakiowa.com

Population of City:

6,000

Employees:

Trisch Walker, Executive Director

Jodie Smith, Administrative Assistant

Membership:

Businesses	212
------------	-----

Individuals	8
-------------	---