

PUBLIC POLICY
And
LEGISLATION
IN YOUR CHAMBER

Facilitate by:

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Molly Grover – JFK
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Joy Nicholson – Ron Corbett
\$16 Chamber of Commerce – Mike May
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1. Why is Government Relations Important?
(Community Development, Bridges, Roadblocks Legislative) – Impacts everything we do

Tourism – Advertising entire state.

Membership – Shows values to the membership.
2. Regardless of size – what are some things that every Chamber can do regardless of size?

Triangle – Middle of the triangle.
3. One person shop – what could you do?
 - Connector in community – introduce yourself with legislators – legislators come to you.
 - Legislative listening sessions – Areas of interest talking to legislators – individual appointments. Room dedicated to 20 – 30 minutes. Face time with legislators – Chamber activities.
 - Forum for issues that the Chamber cannot take on. State legislators
 - Know the staff of Federal folks – Harkin, Grassley. Dubuque hosts for 3 days – compensation. Show them projects – results – touring the facilities.
 - Taking positions on issues on business issues.
For every member you might lose – you might gain another member.
Your show your values to your members.
 - Legislative Coiffers – Access to the legislators – bringing people together.
 - School Board – Board members sit down with them – get to know them well. Companies work with schools – make connections.
Workforce training – interaction with local leaders – conduit to members.
 - Interaction with local leaders – conduit to members
 - Press – Take picture with Senator, Representatives. Get it in the newsletter and newspaper.
 - Grassley 99 County Tour – Lobby the staff to have him in your community. Highlight a business – small, medium, large by touring.
 - State Capitol – no issues – “thank you”. Cup of coffee and donut.
 - Relationships – People to people contact – maintain them all year long – federal, state, local, school
 - Workforce – Economic Development & Schools – working together. What are the skills needed?
 - School Board Elections – get out the vote, advocacy involvement.
 - Advocacy Training – Do we need more? Emily Piper, Lobbyist.
 - Advocacy – 1 on 1 training for assistance at capitol.
 - Resources – ABI – government relations – Iowa Taxpayers Association.
 - Show up in person at the Capitol.
 - Walt Tommya – 1 call issue, 2 calls problem, 3 calls crisis
 - Group together and take to capitol and show them how to “lobby your representative”.
 - What Action Alerts? Take positions.
 - Send it out and you will get feedback
 - Top ten employers – call them.
 - Vote for business website – US Chamber.

- Personalized information for your community – Federal, State, Local
- Bill tracking – delegation – show positions on issues.
- Work the phone.
- National Trust for Historic Preservation.
 - Letter – adapt letters and send them.
- Iowa Chamber Alliance – action alerts for smaller Chambers.
- Smaller – Midsize Chambers buy in.
- Lobbyist (registered) – For, Against, Neutral. Tracking.

Group 2

Brenda Hollingsworth

Senator Appel

Jodi Tyemonson

- Saturday morning coffee.
- Tourism – Legislative Showcase.
- Chamber is the conduit – connector.
- Non partisan stance – place that provides access.
- Open to press – media release – snap pictures of your members. Press release to paper after it has occurred.
- Meeting with local leaders and members – small groups, coffee, luncheon.
- Pass on updates to members – US Chamber, Professional Developers of Iowa, Iowa Chamber Alliance
- Forum on healthcare – interim committee invite members.
- Updating – preferred method of contact.
- Website posting – action alert.
- Make sure you are on Federal call list when Harkin, Grassley and congressman – snap pictures, press – help with crowd building.
- State Office – Federal officials – general invite/open invite.
- Tour a business – take a staff person to lunch and talk about various events.
- Copy legislators on all media releases.
- Meet and Greets – School Board Candidates, City Councils, Board of Supervisors – treats/coffee/conversation. Everyone has a table they can decorate with campaign materials – give a few minutes to speak – who they are, why they are running.
- Working with local community – ordinances, zoning. Being a resource to the boards and commissions.
- Foster City Council and city staff relationships.
- Legislative Coffees – Saturdays during session. Community place, coffee shops. Invite the legislators to share and exchange.
- Create lists for interests of various boards & commissions at City, County.
- Leadership programs – members so you have names for your elected officials to choose from.
- Workshops – Guide to serving on boards and commissions – 2 hours after work.
- ICCE – Candidate School – smaller Chamber focus. How to engage?