

April 2007

President's Letter

Bob Justis
ICCE President

Your participation in ICCE is essential to our growth. At our annual meeting in Pella, I pledged to those in attendance that I would do all in my power to encourage our members to engage in ICCE activities and programs.

We all grow in our jobs by learning from others. It makes no difference the size of your chamber. Large or small, there are others who can benefit from your experience. I like to think that ICCE also stands for Iowa Chambers for Continuing Education. In visiting with many members at the Pella conference, I'm convinced we can return to days of 75 to 100 attending our conferences. I know that members of the board of directors are going to do everything in our power to assure that you receive a fair return on your investment in ICCE.



I urge you to take advantage of our web site. Use the list serve to communicate with other Iowa chamber execs. With our many experienced members, help with your issue is just a click away.

Our next conference is September 19th – 21st in Council Bluffs. Please join us for what should be another excellent opportunity to share your problems and your solutions to what we all deal with every day.

However, don't wait until September to engage with us.

You'll find contact information for our board of directors on the web site. Call us, and let us know how we can better serve you. Thank you for your investment in ICCE.

Explore the current economic development trends that will impact you and your communities at the 22nd Annual Smart Economic Development Conference brought to you by the Iowa Utility Association and the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Hear featured luncheon speaker, legendary NASCAR driver and ESPN analyst, Rusty Wallace and keynote presentations from national renewable energy experts Dr. John Miranowski, Dr. Steven Fales, and Norm Olson, PE.

This annual event is coming May 3, 2007 to the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. To register or to find more information on lodging, location and directions, visit www.iowasmartconf.com.



2007 Winter Conference and Annual Meeting a Success

Karla Thompson
ICCE Secretary/Treasurer
Dyersville Chamber of Commerce

A fantastic conference was held in Pella, IA on February 21-23! This is one of two conferences held each year by ICCE and is a great opportunity to network and to pick your colleagues brains!

David Vollmar of the Greater Des Moines Homebuilders Association gave a wonderful presentation on sponsorships. A detailed list of sponsorship ideas and opportunities was passed out to show attendees that this is money you wouldn't have had if you hadn't asked!

Karin Peterson from the Pella Corporation explained how their employees go through a leadership training process. This enables the employee to get more involved in the company while offering new ideas.

A panel from Pella explained how they recruit and train young professionals, making them feel welcomed in the community by getting to know other new residents and getting them involved in the community on an individual and family level are important aspects to YP's.

Utilizing a simple message that can be transformed into many other uses is the best way to "Market Your Community Locally, Statewide and Nationally" as the Greater Des Moines partnership explained. "Do More" was their slogan for a versatile message - "Whatever you do, do more of it in Des Moines".

Besides hearing from these wonderful speakers, updates were given by the Iowa Association of Business & Industry and Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge. A Power Networking session gave small groups an opportunity to get feedback and suggestions from their peers.

The Pella Chamber of Commerce and the Pella Convention & Visitor's Bureau showed their community very well by hosting the "Taste of Pella" windmill tour and of course the shopping!

Thanks to the Winter Conference Planning Committee: Shar Pardubsky - Greater Des Moines Partnership, Robin Anderson - Mason City Chamber of Commerce, Tracie Miller - formerly of the Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce and Karla Thompson - Dyersville Area Chamber of Commerce. If there are topic or speakers you would like to hear from please email Sara Mentzer at smentzer@cedarrapids.org.



Bob Justis presents Kay Sackville Breuer with a plaque commemorating her year as ICCE President.

2007-2008 Scholarship Report

*Robin Anderson, Mason City Area Chamber & Linda Washburn, Glenwood Area Chamber
ICCE Scholarship Co-Chairs*

The fundamental mission of the Iowa Chamber of Commerce Executives is the professional development of its members. To that end, the organization provides scholarships to encourage members to attend conference and educational opportunities. At the ICCE Winter Conference in Pella on February 21-23, 2007, interviews were held with applicants. We congratulate the recipients of the following scholarships for registration to these professional development conferences, conventions, and institutes:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management:

- Joann Schinstock, Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce
- Dusty Embree, Esterville Area Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Conference:

- Brenda Levitt, Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Annual Convention:

- Karen Eischen, Pella Chamber of Commerce
- Eve Doi, Ames Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission

Please check our website for availability of upcoming scholarships. These professional opportunities are available to all and are not limited by the size of your chamber. Our board members are available to speak to your Boards of Directors in the areas we represent if you need us to help educate them about professional development opportunities. Special thanks to Gary Keoppel, Marion Chamber of Commerce and Vicki Mallory, Algona Chamber of Commerce for assisting us with scholarship interviews.



Karen Eischen, Brenda Levitt, Dusty Embree and Eve Doi.
(Not pictured, Joann Schinstock)

Small Business Health Insurance Pooling & Legislative Update (4/10/07)

I date this because things are changing on a daily if not hourly basis. With three weeks left in this session there are some bills to bring to you attention.

HF 790 passed both the House and Senate and awaits the signature of Governor Culver. Over a decade ago some chambers offered health insurance plans for their membership. While this is not the same program, it is an opportunity for chamber to offer at what could be a long sought member benefit.

The bill allows for current associations or trade organizations to offer a health insurance plan through the small group health insurance market to businesses with less than 50 employees. The organization must be in existence for more than five years and cannot be formed just to offer insurance to a membership.

Different from a decade ago, this bill also offers incentives for wellness programs which has proven to help with health care costs.

There are a number of implementation questions many groups are currently working through so we encourage you to discuss this with local members to gain assistance in the programs options.

Other Legislative Update of Interest to Iowa Business

On Tuesday, April 10 the House will debate what many call the film industry bill. This bill is not limited to just large motion picture projects but would grow an industry in this state. The bill HF892 would help put Iowa on the radar for projects throughout the country.

ABI has declared the Choice of Doctor (SF424) bill dead and if you look at the funnel deadlines this could be true. However, until this session is over we aren't counting anything out so please note this is another bad for business proposal. The Right to Work bill and Prevailing Wage bill are two others that most business organizations have pointed out as bad for Iowa throughout this session.

The Historic Tax Credits bill passed the Senate and is now in a House Committee. The outlook on this bill as well as one that would allocate more money to the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund are good and we encourage you to talk to members of your local delegation regarding the importance of these initiatives to all of Iowa.

If you have any questions or would like more details please contact me at smentzer@cedarrapids.org or 319-730-1404.

Sara

SAVE THE DATE!

ICCE Fall Conference...

**Please mark your planner for the
ICCE Fall Conference to be held
in Council Bluffs, Iowa!**

"Building Your Hometown Team"

Wednesday, September 19th through Friday, September 21

Agenda

Wednesday: Evening Reception - "Team Meeting"

**Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. -
"Training"**

More details & registration materials to follow

Holiday Inn at Ameristar

2200 River Road

Council Bluffs, Iowa

712-322-5050

**Please extend an invitation to your assistants/staff and
"Save the Date".**

**Take this opportunity to network with your fellow Chamber
Professionals!**

ICCE 2007-2008 Renewal Update & Web Site Information

The ICCE year began on March 1, 2007 and we thank all of you who have already renewed your membership. Nearly 90 chambers have committed to this partnership for the 2007-2008 year and we look forward to having over 100 by the time the renewal process is completed. If you are aware of changes in staffing at chambers near you, please contact the ICCE office at smentzer@cedarrapids.org so we can follow up with that organization.

As we receive the renewals and updates, staff is updating the directory button of the ICCE web site. This is different from the printable version that will be posted before the first of May. The printable version contains historical information on the association as well as the contact information from the renewing chambers. Please check the "Directory" button on the site to ensure your information has been updated as you requested.

The ICCE web site www.iowachamber.net is a great way to keep in touch with the activities of ICCE. The site contains contact information for the Board of Directors, job openings, a calendar of events for organization partners throughout the country and many resources often requested by chambers.

Thank you to all of the chambers who are actively participating on the ICCE listserv. This is a fantastic way to network, share ideas and ask questions of your colleagues. If you are not currently subscribed and would like to be, please contact Sara Mentzer at smentzer@cedarrapids.org.

In order to serve the members of ICCE with the most up to date tools available, the ICCE Board has voted to form a task force to look at the redesign of the ICCE web site.

Kay Sackville Breuer of the Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber will chair this group and Barb Dostal, Cedar Rapids Area Chamber staff who manages the web site, will work with the members on options. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please contact Sara Mentzer at smentzer@cedarrapids.org.

We anticipate most meetings will be via conference call but it could also require a few face to face meetings. Please respond by April 20.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

US Chamber of Commerce INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT

2007 Early Enrollment Deadlines:

Midwest InstituteMay 1, 2007
 Southeast Institute May 1, 2007
 West Institute June 5, 2007
 Northeast Institute June 5, 2007

2007 Sites and Dates

Midwest Institute | June 3 - 7, 2007
 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Southeast Institute | June 17 - 21, 2007
 University of Georgia, Athens, GA

West Institute | July 8 - 12, 2007
 Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

Northeast Institute | July 29 - August 2, 2007
 Villanova University, Villanova, PA

2007 SMART Conference

Thursday, May 3, 2007
 Polk Country Convention Complex.

ACCE Annual Convention 2007

8/3/2007
 Sacramento, CA

ICCE Fall Conference

September 19-21, 2007
 Council Bluffs, Iowa

MACE Conference

April 25-27, 2007

Radisson Hotel Fargo - Fargo, North Dakota
 Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the
 34rd Annual MACE Conference.

Join Chamber Executives and staff from six
 states, as they discuss important issues facing
 today's chambers. www.radisson.com

Call for Room Blocks: 1-800-333-3333 or

1-701-232-7363

Ask for "MACE Conference"