

IOWA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

January 2008

President's Letter

*Bob Justis
ICCE President*



You just THOUGHT the Iowa caucuses were over.

On February 20 – 22 The ICCE members will have their own caucus during which the candidates for ICCE board of directors will be presented. This is all part of the winter conference being organized by Shar Padubsky of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Look for detailed information on this web-site. Once again, attendees will find one of the biggest bangs for their bucks when it comes to member benefits. Here is another chance for you to spend time with your peers and learn from each other. Our last conference, in Council Bluffs, was a huge success based upon the evaluations from our attendees. The ICCE board of directors and conference committee is doing all it can to bring you valuable, educational and practical sessions each time we convene. I want to thank Shar for all her tremendous work on this conference.

Our annual meeting will also convene as part of this meeting. Come meet the new board of directors and thank those who have given many years of service to ICCE who are leaving the board.

With the situation in Washington, Iowa we all realize a disaster can happen to us or our community. We have posted a number of disaster plans from throughout the country on the web site if you would like to compare your plan to others.
www.iowachamber.net

Iowa Chambers are Rockin' the Business World

**February 20-22, 2008
West Des Moines Marriott**

Register today by downloading the form at

www.iowachamber.net/calendar

**You can't afford to miss this. Thank you to our
Gold Sponsors:**

NovoPrint USA, Village Profile and Nation Job

Iowa Legislative Session 2008

Robin Anderson

Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce

ICCE Board of Directors

The Iowa Legislature convened on January 14, 2008. It has never been more important than RIGHT NOW for those of us in the chamber world to keep an eye on pending legislation that will impact our members.

Traditionally, the position of the ICCE board has been to maintain our organization's focus on professional development. However, we can use the resources of ICCE to help keep our membership informed and to assist ICCE member chambers in taking action when necessary.

- Periodically, the ICCE listserv will be used to inform members about pending legislation that is relevant to our members. In addition, these missives will help you contact your local legislators and to alert your members so they can take action.
- Since the Iowa Chamber Alliance is the closest thing our state has to a statewide pro-business legislative advocacy organization, the US Chamber recently designed a website for the ICA. According to Doug Loon from the US Chamber, this site is intended for use by ICCE members as well. This website, www.growiowabusiness.com, provides the latest news on hot issues, voter resources, and position papers on federal and state issues critical to economic growth. The Iowa Chamber Alliance positions are listed on its website: www.iowachamberalliance.org which is separate from the US Chamber effort.
- Feel free to utilize the listserv if you have questions about issues. We are fortunate to have several government affairs specialists among our ICCE members who are a great resource!

ICCE dues invoices and membership verifications will be mailed the end of January. The ICCE fiscal year is from March 1 through the last day of February. Dues for the 2008-2009 year are due on April 1, 2008. Watch for the verification form and dues in your mail. This is the best way to keep records up to date and communications effective for all parties.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ICCE. The Board hopes to bring you quality conferences, a network of peers here to help and education that allows you to grow in the chamber profession. Please contact Sara Mentzer at the ICCE office with any questions. smentzer@cedarrapids.org or 319-730-1404.

The ICCE Winter Conference and Annual Meeting us coming fast and you don't want to miss the hottest ticket in the state!

Need some networking? Ready to hear what your colleagues have to say about that issue you just can't seem to get your arms around? Well, the time is almost here.

The ICCE Winter Conference and Annual meeting are:

Wednesday, February 20- Friday, February 22, 2008

West Des Moines Marriott

www.iowachamber.net/calendar

Sam Erkonnen, our legal expert, will walk our membership through many issues that plague chambers throughout the country. Sam has been a US Chamber speaker as well as recognized expert in the non-profit world on the changes we face every year. Sam spoke to ICCE at the Fall Conference in Waterloo/Cedar Falls and the reviews were over the top. You can't explain how much you will get from this session.

Also on the agenda is a back-by-popular demand presentation on Total Resource Campaigns. We'll explain it from a consultant as well as how to do it "in house".

With this and networking, small group topic-driven roundtables and a great explanation of what all these initials mean (IOM, CCE, CAE etc.) you will walk away with many ideas to take back to your Boards of Directors.

Download your registration form today and make your hotel reservations at the West Des Moines Marriott.

If you are interested in any scholarships for ACCE, MACE or the US Chamber the application is on the next pages. Interviews will be held during Winter Conference; no phone interviews will be held. There are a number of scholarships available but this is your one time this year to apply.

Finally, as part of the Annual Meeting on Thursday evening we will hold a silent auction. Each member bringing a silent auction basket worth at least \$100 will receive a \$10 credit on any auction bidding. All proceeds go toward the ICCE scholarship fund.

Dress for the conference is business casual although the annual meeting is business attire please.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors: NovoPrint USA, Village Profile and Nation Job.

See you in February!

ICCE 2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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.

Please check the scholarship(s) for which you are applying:

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Invested Leaders Institute
April 10-12 in Memphis—US Chamber earlybird rate –full tuition
\$499 (One scholarship available)

- Mid-America Chamber Executives (MACE) Annual Conference May 7-9,
2008 in Lacrosse registration fee \$199 (One scholarship available)

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs
Conference June 4-6 in Las Vegas or June 18-20 in Orlando \$500
toward tuition/expenses
(One scholarship available)

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational
Management--U.S. Chamber Member rate – full tuition
\$1295. (Two scholarships available)

- American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)
Annual Convention July 31-August 2 in Pittsburgh
\$1000 toward registration fee/expenses
(One scholarship available)

Interviews will be held at a time TBA at the ICCE Winter Conference in West Des Moines February 20-22, 2008. Sorry, no phone interviews. All scholarship recipients must be 2008-09 members in good standing of ICCE. Please direct any questions to:

Robin Anderson at randerson@masoncityia.com or
JoElla O'Connell at info@dewitt.org

ICCE 2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Job Title _____

Chamber/Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Organization Total Annual Budget _____

What continuing education/conference opportunities do you attend regularly?

Highest level of formal education achieved: _____

How long have you been in your present position? _____

How long have you worked in the chamber field? _____

Briefly describe your management/program responsibilities: _____

Have you previously been awarded a scholarship through ICCE? _____

List other organizations you have applied, or plan to apply to for assistance in attending national or state conferences:

List your previous full-time positions (list most recent positions first):

Attach a brief statement responding to the following questions:

- Why are you interested in voluntary organization management?
- What are your long-term professional goals?
- How will your current position help you reach these goals?

SIGNATURES AND AUTHORIZATION

The employing organization does hereby guarantee the applicant will attend the program(s) indicated in the calendar year 2008 (or Winter Institute in Jan. 2009). Unless indicated, the scholarships cover the member rate for the registration fees. If the scholarship recipient's organization is NOT a US Chamber or ACCE member, the recipient is responsible for any difference between member and non-member rates.

Scholarship checks will be presented after proof of registration is provided to reimburse the recipient's organization. Recipients who are awarded a scholarship and then are unable to attend must reimburse ICCE regardless of the reason. The ICCE will make every attempt to make the award to an unsuccessful scholarship candidate.

Applicant

Date

President/Board Chair

Date

Chamber C.E.O. (if other than applicant)

Date

BEST of Iowa

The **BEST of Iowa** *Business Expansion & Strategic Trends* partnership was formed by Aquila Inc., Alliant Energy IPL, Iowa Area Development Group and MidAmerican Energy in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Economic Development. **BEST of Iowa** supports local economic development organizations in implementing or increasing the effectiveness of their business retention and expansion efforts, and provides a state-wide existing business tool, Synchronist.

The Synchronist System is a structured business information system designed for collection, management, analysis, and reporting of the business data impacting communities and the overall state economy. **BEST of Iowa** provides Synchronist data input only access at no cost, or various sublicenses are available for full access. The goals of this partnership among IDED and Iowa's utilities in this statewide initiative include:

- Facilitating an integrated approach to economic development by providing the tools, resources and training for community leaders and economic development professionals
- Further developing and maintaining a successful, continuous business retention and expansion program
- Improving community economic decision-making capacity
- Developing a pro-business message

This partnership intends to utilize the data to analyze regional and statewide trends as valuable information in considering public policy, allocation of resources and formulation of marketing initiatives. Iowa's first annual report will be presented at the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) spring conference in June 2008. Therefore, the Synchronist data entry deadline for inclusion of your community's data in this evaluation and resulting annual report is **February 29, 2008**.

Contact a member of the **BEST of Iowa** management committee to review your community's business retention program and discuss utilization of the Synchronist System:

Alliant Energy-IPL

Julie Ruehle
319-786-4559
julieruehle@alliantenergy.com

Aquila Inc.

Mike Fastenau
(515) 224-1404, ext 12
mike.fastenau@aquila.com

Iowa Area Development Group

Dan Anderson
(515) 223-4817
danderson@iadg.com

**Iowa Department of Economic
Development**

Peggy Kerr
515-242-4745
peggy.kerr@iowalifechanging.com

MidAmerican Energy Company

Deb Calvert
515-281-2595
dlcalvert@midamerican.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[US Chamber - Invested Leaders Institute](#)

April 10-12, 2008
Memphis TN

[US Chamber Government Affairs Conferences](#)

June 4-6, 2008
Bellagio Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas NV
or
June 11-13, 2008
Portofino Bay Hotel
Orlando FL

US Chamber Institute Dates and Locations

www.uschamber.com

[Midwest Institute | June 8-12, 2008](#)

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

[Southeast Institute | June 22-26, 2008](#)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

[West Institute | July 13-17, 2008](#)

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

[Northeast Institute | July 27-31, 2008](#)

Villanova University, Villanova, PA

[ACCE Convention 2008](#)

July 31-August 2, 2008
Pittsburgh PA

ICCE Fall Conference

September 10-12, 2008
Hotel Winneshiek
Decorah IA

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors: Village Profile and Nation Job.

Don't forget to check the web site for job listings....www.iowachamber.net!