

# IOWA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

**June/July 2007**

424 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE-Cedar Rapids IA 52401

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## **President's Letter**

*Bob Justis*

*Greater Cedar Valley Chamber of Commerce-Waterloo & Cedar Falls  
ICCE President 2007-2008*



The process for updating your ICCE website has begun. A committee met recently to discuss what features we would like to see included in the website. An RFP will be sent within the next few weeks. Hopefully, by fall we will see a tremendous “makeover” of the site.

I know that elsewhere in this issue; you will find information about the fall conference in Council Bluffs. However, I want to thank the committee for arranging what appears to be a very first rate conference with some outstanding speakers. You will be hearing from a member of the board of directors as we get closer to the conference dates encouraging you to make us stronger by joining us in Council Bluffs. Your participation is key to our success. Other members of ICCE need to learn from you. It really doesn't matter if you are seasoned veteran of Chamber world or a rookie, you have ideas to share.

As we enter the summer season of festivals and other community celebrations that keep us all “employed” here's wishing all of you a safe fun filled summer.

**Are you registered for the ICCE List Serve?  
It is one of the most utilized benefits of  
ICCE membership.**

**Contact Sara Mentzer for more  
information.**

**[smentzer@cedarrapids.org](mailto:smentzer@cedarrapids.org)**

## Get in the GAME! ICCE Fall Conference 2007

The ICCE Fall Conference Committee has put together a “don’t miss” conference for September. With national level speakers, a Wednesday afternoon bonus session on Total Resource Campaigns, ever popular roundtables and networking, networking, networking.....you won’t want to be the one hearing about what you missed from your colleagues.

The Fall Conference is September 19-21 in Council Bluffs. The registration information and conference schedule is available on the ICCE web site at [www.iowachamber.net](http://www.iowachamber.net). Make your hotel reservations and join professionals from throughout Iowa in Council Bluffs.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor..NovoPrint USA

## 2007 Downtown Summit “back to basics” August 28-29, 2007 / Council Bluffs, Iowa

The 21st annual Iowa Downtown Summit, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank, Des Moines, offers interesting and informative sessions on how rural and urban communities across America are changing places, changing faces and changing lives.

Keynote speakers Fran & Bill Lytle from Brand Champs will speak on gender-specific differences that explain how men and women make decisions; Lanie McMullen, Destination Development, will talk about the force behind successful communities, their growth and how they accomplish positive change; and David Ivan, Clinton County Extension, MI, will show how to turn a city into a place where all ages want to live, work and play.

Learn from noted national and Midwest professionals as well as local practitioners on such topics as: Tax credits • Diversity • Cultural & Entertainment Districts • Streetscapes • Upper story development • Legislative advocacy • Americans with Disabilities Act ... and much more!

Registration received on or before August 21 is \$110 per person; after August 21, the fee is \$135. A discounted group rate of \$95 per person is available for communities that register three or more people (at the same time) before August 21. The registration fee includes the reception on August 28 and lunch on both days.

A detailed conference brochure will be available in mid-July at <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community/mainstreetiowa/index.html>. Those interested in attending can register by calling the Iowa Downtown Resource Center at 515.242.4734 or by e-mailing [downtown@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:downtown@iowalifechanging.com)

Please join us for the 21st year of Iowa’s annual celebration of downtown revitalization.

### **Susan Drake**

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200 East Grand Avenue / Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
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**IOWA *life* | changing®**  
[www.iowalifechanging.com](http://www.iowalifechanging.com)

## Legislative Wrap Up

*Robin Anderson*

*Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce*

### Session Bright Spots

For the past several years many of our chambers have advocated to raise the cap on Historic Tax Credits. The Legislature passed a bill that will increase tax credits to \$10 million this year, \$15 million the following year, and \$20 million thereafter. This incentive is important to revitalize Iowa communities. The Legislature also increased funding of Vision Iowa, a program established in 2000 to support development of destination attractions in the state, but Governor Culver vetoed this increase on May 29. We are hopeful he is open to re-vamping this important program that has helped so many Iowa communities to build upon their strengths.

### Steps in the Right Direction

Increasing teacher pay and providing expanded opportunities for preschool attendance shows a commitment to workforce preparedness. However, it is disappointing that weak core content standards for measuring academic achievement remained untouched.

Similarly, while our chambers applaud the Legislature for establishing the four-year, \$100 million Power Fund for alternative energy development, the legislation should have included expansion of tax credits for wind energy to our members in constructing their own turbines.

### Disappointments

Despite a blue ribbon task force that studied property tax reform, the Legislature failed to provide significant property tax relief for Iowa business owners. Every year that property tax is not reformed, Iowa's economic climate becomes less competitive.

### Looking Ahead

The ICCE and Iowa Chamber Alliance boards are working together to determine how we can work together to promote legislation that improves the Iowa business climate. ICCE members will be hearing more about this at the Fall Conference and in future newsletters.

## 2007 Great Lakes / Midwest Regional Government Affairs Conference

The **2007 Great Lakes / Midwest Regional Government Affairs Conference** is taking place **September 12-14** at the historic **InterContinental Chicago** in Chicago, IL. Please join your colleagues to learn from the experts about cutting-edge issues confronting businesses nationwide and how chambers are addressing them; discover the latest government affairs practices and trends – from government affairs 101 to advanced activities for the political veteran; network with colleagues and share best practices and much more.

Information about the conference can be found by visiting:

[www.uschamber.com/events/congressional/070912glmw](http://www.uschamber.com/events/congressional/070912glmw). The website will be updated soon with online registration information, a draft agenda and the scholarship application.

## News From Washington DC and the US Chamber of Commerce

Dear Chamber Friends in Iowa:

At an April 17 reception on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognized more than 300 Members of Congress with its prestigious "Spirit of Enterprise" award for their support of pro-growth and pro-business legislation during the second session of the 109th Congress. Members of Congress who voted 70% or greater on the Chambers' priority issues last year received the Spirit of Enterprise award. The Chamber designated 12 key-votes in the Senate and 15 in the House including such issues as comprehensive immigration reform, permanent repeal of the death tax, small business health plan legislation, and Oman and Vietnam free trade agreements. The following sitting Members received the award:

Sen. Chuck Grassley

Rep. Tom Latham (IA-4)

Rep. Steve King (IA-5)

While they were recognized April 17 in Washington, it is always best to find opportunities to recognize them back home in the state/district because otherwise no one at home necessarily knows about the award. If you've already scheduled an event with your Member of Congress or looking to do so soon, please let us know and we'll be happy to attend and make a Spirit of Enterprise presentation on behalf of both us. We can also send the materials ("dummy" trophy, talking points, and press release) to you for your own presentation. Because of the Congressional calendar, there are limited times to try and make the presentation, however, we've listed the scheduled congressional work periods when they should be home in the state/districts. Lastly, we've attached a link to the "How They Voted" scores so you can see their voting records. Please let us know about possible events and opportunities to recognize your Member of Congress with the award (the presentation itself takes only 1-2 minutes of time).

Thanks much,

Doug Loon

Steve Jepsen

USCC, Midwest Region      952-832-9151

The House - <http://capwiz.com/chamber/scorecard/?chamber=H&session=1092&x=14&y=12>

The Senate - <http://capwiz.com/chamber/scorecard/?chamber=S&session=1092&x=17&y=9>

### **Congressional Work Periods:**

July 2nd - 9th

July 20th

August 6th - Sept. 3rd

Sept. 21st

Congress has targeted Oct. 26th as its Adjournment

## Calendar of Events

**US Chamber of Commerce  
INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION  
MANAGEMENT**

**2007 Sites and Dates**

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

**ACCE Annual Convention 2007**

August 3, 2007  
Sacramento, CA  
[www.acce.org](http://www.acce.org)

**ICCE Fall Conference**

September 19-21, 2007  
Council Bluffs, Iowa  
[www.iowachamber.net](http://www.iowachamber.net)

**US Chamber Midwest Regional Government Affairs Conference**

September 12-14, 2007  
InterContinental Chicago  
505 North Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60611

**ICCE Winter Conference**

February 20-22, 2008  
Des Moines, IA

### Best Practices

*Ann McCurdy- Executive Directory  
Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce  
712-243-3017  
[chamberdir@a-m-u.net](mailto:chamberdir@a-m-u.net)*

We're kicking off a new fundraising campaign, "Friends of Atlantic." Similar to "Friends of IPTV", this fundraiser gives the donator certain benefits and perks for their contribution.

A \$25 Friend of AtlanticFest (our major festival and fundraiser in August) will get free cold water, shade, Atlantic merchandise, and one raffle ticket. We have different levels with the Friend of AtlanticFest being the smallest amount, all the way up to \$150. It's another funding source for us without having to again tap the stretched dollars of our business owners.

**Have you checked out the latest**

**job postings at**

**[www.iowachamber.net/directory](http://www.iowachamber.net/directory)**