

March 2008

President's Letter

Linda Washburn, ICCE President 2008-2009

Executive Director Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for the 2008-09 year. The Board of Directors and our staff, Sara Mentzer, will continue to work diligently to see that your investment in ICCE is beneficial.

The "Chamber World" is unique. As we are expected to lead our own communities, to improve quality of life and enhance and grow our businesses, ICCE is a tremendous resource for networking to exchange ideas. Collectively, we can help one another offer the best to our members.

If you missed our Winter Conference in West Des Moines, I once again want to thank Shar Pardusky with the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Des Moines Area Affiliates who organized and facilitated a fantastic conference. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients: Robin, Lisa, Lynn, Eve and Karla. Also, special thanks to Past-President Bob Justis, Greater Cedar Valley Chamber of Commerce, for all of his work and commitment to ICCE through his 2007-08 term on the Board of Directors. Bob, we wish we could bottle your enthusiasm and devotion.

Just a reminder of several upcoming conferences: Mid American Chamber Executives, ACCE Conference, and ICCE Fall Conference. Visit our website at www.iowachamber.net for details! If you have any questions, use our listserv or contact one of your ICCE Board Members. We're here to help!

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you. On a day-to-day operational basis, there is no better organization than ICCE that can help you be your best for your community!

Kip Lily- Coming to you in September!

The ICCE Conference Planning Committee is excited to announce that Kip Lily, Institute instructor and ACCE regular, will be a presenter at ICCE's Fall Conference in September. This is only one session of many that you won't want to miss.

**ICCE is here to be your continuing education organization.
Don't miss it – mark your calendars today
September 10-12, 2008**

**MACE Registrations are
now available at
www.maceconference.com**

As a member of ICCE you are a member of MACE. Take this opportunity to expand your learning opportunities with chambers from 6 states in this region!

Winter Conference 2008

Kudos and thanks to the Winter Conference planning committee for their work on a very successful event. Attendees heard legal advice on issues we face every day, learned the benefits of a Total Resource Campaign (done on your own or with a consultant), spent time in topic-specific roundtables and received an update on the revitalization efforts in downtown Des Moines. If you are interested in the notes from Winter Conference roundtables, they are posted on the ICCE web site at the bottom of the calendar page. www.iowachamber.net/calendar.



ICCE Scholarship Recipients

Robin Anderson, Mason City Area Chamber

JoElla O'Connell, Dewitt Chamber of Commerce

ICCE Scholarship Committee 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.

Applicants completed a form and short essay section before undergoing interviews, which were held at the Winter Conference. ICCE past presidents served on the scholarship interview team and made the selections from a very talented applicant pool.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

- Karla Thompson, Mid-America Chamber Executives (MACE) Annual Conference
- Eve Doi, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Conference
- Lynn Olberding, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management
- Lisa Formanek, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management
- Robin Anderson, American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Annual Convention

Scholarships are available to employees of all ICCE member organizations.

News from Iowa Association of Business & Industry

Mike Ralston
President

Public Policy Front and Center

With a little over a month to go in the 2008 Iowa Legislative Session, ABI is focused on public policy issues. ABI members from across Iowa participated in last week's ABI Day on the Hill. Iowa business leaders visited one-on-one with legislators, heard from state officials, and discussed public policy issues. A number of bad-for-business bills are of concern, including bills that would end Iowa's decades-old Right to Work law, upset Iowa's current equitable workers compensation practices, and others.

Should you have questions or concerns or need assistance related to legislative issues, please contact ABI at (515) 280-8000. Regardless of whether or not your chamber is a member, we want to provide any possible assistance.

Convention June 10-12 in Greater Iowa City

ABI's 105th annual convention will be held June 10 through 12 in Greater Iowa City. Fantastic venues, such as the Coralville Marriott, Kinnick Stadium, and Blue Top Ridge Golf Resort, are on tap. Terrific speakers, such as famed NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace, Google Executive Susan Vaks, DC insider Susan Neely and many others, are on the program. And everything comes with Iowa's very best business networking with over 500 of your business colleagues. Make your plans now to join ABI in June. Go to www.iowaabi.org and click on the convention link. Many thanks to the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce and Iowa City Convention and Visitors Bureau for their help in planning this exciting meeting. See you in Greater Iowa City!

ABI Events Coming Your Way

Each year, ABI hosts a series of meetings and programs throughout Iowa. Please click on <http://www.iowaabi.org/en/events/> for information about upcoming programs.

Leadership Iowa, Business Horizons Participation on the Rise

The ABI Foundation's two flagship programs, Business Horizons (a week-long entrepreneurial camp for high school students) and Leadership Iowa (a community development and leadership program) are seeing increased participation. Business Horizons will be held this year at Simpson College in Indianola in July. The next Leadership Iowa class will meet in locations around Iowa beginning this fall. For more information or to nominate participants, go to: <http://www.iowaabi.org/en/foundation/> and click on the program buttons. These programs welcome the involvement of your members.

Call on ABI

ABI takes seriously its charge to advance business in Iowa. We value the opportunity to work with local chambers that are on the front lines of that work. If our association can ever be of assistance, please contact me at (515) 235-0562. Thank you.



2008 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Conferences

Dear Friends,

Fear not the Ides of March - Spring is almost here... And so are the 2008 Government Affairs Conferences! As a teaser, we wanted to share with you information on the venues for the conferences in more detail, including events and entertainment you can enjoy, and to give you up-to-date information on [scholarship opportunities](#). Don't hesitate... Register for the conference TODAY!

www.uschamber.com/governmentaffairs

June is a great time to visit either of the locations for our conferences. **Las Vegas: June 4-6 and Orlando: June 11-13** are ideal for fun in the sun, top of the line shopping and 5 star entertainment. Some highlights to see when the conference is not in session: In Las Vegas, look forward to the amazing **Bellagio Hotel**, its famous fountains, shopping at Planet Hollywood or Caesars, catch a glimpse of Elvis, or go see a performance of Cirque du Soleil or Elton John. Not to be outdone, Orlando attendees will be experiencing life Mediterranean-style at the **Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Studios** with shopping at City Walk, along with live entertainment such as the Blue Man Group or a stand up comedy act at Bonkers Comedy Club.

We have negotiated extremely generous room pricing for conference attendees. The room block includes a room rate of **\$199 per night + tax** at either location and is for the following dates:

Bellagio Hotel: check-in June 4, check-out June 6

Portofino Bay Hotel: check-in June 11 at 4:00 pm, check-out June 13 at 11:00 am.

Bellagio Hotel

When the Bellagio opened in 1998, it was the most expensive hotel ever built at \$1.6

SAVE THE DATE

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Conferences

June 4-6, 2008
Las Vegas, NV
Bellagio Hotel and Casio

June 11-13, 2008
Orlando, FL
Portofino Bay Hotel



billion, and its iconic look defines the modern view of Las Vegas. Home to a permanent production show of the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil and the elaborate Fountains of Bellagio, the Bellagio offers second-to-none amenities and a wide range of entertainment options. On site there are 5 outdoor pools, 4 whirlpools and a full service spa and salon. Located in the heart of the Las Vegas strip, your options during a stay at the Bellagio are unlimited.

Portofino Bay Hotel

Designed as a recreation of the famed Italian village of Portofino, The Portofino Bay Hotel is a AAA Four Diamond Award Winner located within walking distance to the Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure theme parks, along with the City Walk entertainment complex. On site there are 3 themed pools, full service Spa and fitness center, and access to the area's finest golf courses. For the kids – Campo Portofino has supervised children's activities. As a perk, guests are able to enjoy Universal Express ride access - the ability to bypass the regular attraction lines simply by showing your room key.

Scholarships available now!

Are you looking to create an effective government affairs program but do not think you have the means to attend a conference in 2008? **We have a solution.** The U.S. Chamber is again offering scholarships for local chambers of commerce to attend our conferences. This year, scholarship recipients can apply for \$500 scholarships towards their registration fees, travel and lodging costs at either conference in Las Vegas or Orlando.

Last year, 35 scholarships were distributed to attending chambers. To accommodate the changes made in the program, we are growing our scholarship program in 2008 by 66 percent for the 2008 conferences!

By allowing more local chambers in key districts to create or grow stellar government affairs operations, we can together further a pro-business message, while providing attendees with a value-added service to your membership. Additionally, the June Conference dates will afford you more time to implement your new messaging strategies and advocacy tools in advance of an absolutely crucial election. You will leave with the national best practices you will need to effectively shift the political and legislative landscape – from Pennsylvania Avenue to Main Street.

Please make sure you fax in your completed application to **Carolyn Melton at 972/404-9130 by April 11** to ensure consideration. Applicants will be contacted soon after to confirm their status. We strongly encourage applicants to make travel plans and register in advance to ensure availability and best fares.

Register for the conference TODAY! www.uschamber.com/governmentaffairs

As always, please let us know if we can be of any assistance with online registration, scholarships, and other concerns. We look forward to joining you at these wonderful venues as we work towards a better future for business in this critical election year.

Regards,
Doug Loon and Dan Nelson
USCC, Midwest Region
(952) 832-9151



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce | 1615 H Street, NW | Washington, DC 20062-2000
www.uschamber.com

Calendar

[US Chamber - Invested Leaders Institute](#)

April 10-12, 2008
 Memphis TN

[MACE Conference](#)

May 7-9, 2008
 La Crosse WI

[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 Sites

[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

[Winter Institute | January 4-8, 2009](#)

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ