

## Washington, D.C. Visit

**T**he annual State Chamber Washington visit was held April 30 and May 1. Some 20 State Chamber members attended the two-day function, which included the weekly Nebraska Breakfast, our Congressional Luncheon, and briefings from the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. (See Chairman Gayle McClure's story on page 2.) ■



**Congressman Tom Osborne addresses the luncheon gathering (top). Senator Ben Nelson visits with Don Heimes, Barry Kennedy and Gayle McClure before the Nebraska Congressional Breakfast (top right). Congressman Lee Terry fields a question at the Nebraska Breakfast (right). Congressman Doug Bereuter and Duane Acklie at the luncheon (bottom right). Tim Becker, Tony Raimondo, Senator Ben Nelson, and Randy Howard converse during the luncheon (bottom left). Senator Chuck Hagel answers a question (left).**



### Governor Visits Public Affairs Council

**G**overnor Mike Johanns was the guest at the April 29 meeting of the State Chamber's Public Affairs Council. He explained his position on the state's budget and why he was looking to use his veto authority regarding the budget. ■



### - Bulletin -

**Please thank all our congressional delegation for supporting President Bush's \$350 billion tax cut!**

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## State Chamber Views...

Guest Editorial by Gayle McClure, State Chamber Chairman

# “D.C. Trip Shows Value”

With the end of the regular session of the Legislature, June might seem like a time for the State Chamber to breath a collective sigh of relief and take a more relaxed mode. While the day-to-day activities of the Legislature command a great deal of our efforts, it would be a mistake to think that the State Chamber isn't active on the federal side of our government. Last month, I participated in the State Chamber's annual congressional visit to Washington, D.C. This year, we had over 50 attendees at the luncheon that we host for our congressional delegation and their key staff.

As others who have participated in past Washington visits know, the time was well spent. We planned our trip to be in our Nation's Capital on Wednesday morning to participate in the weekly Nebraska Congressional Breakfast. A tradition began in 1945 by Senator Hugh Butler; the Nebraska Congressional Breakfast is the oldest ongoing gathering of its kind on Capitol Hill. Senator Butler originally wanted to meet informally each week with other members of the state's delegation to discuss issues. Soon, members began inviting guests to the meetings and a tradition was born. Each week when Congress is in session, all Nebraskans visiting Washington and their guests are invited.

We had a good crowd at the breakfast and at times, it seemed like a gathering of friends at a Husker tailgate party. Senator Nelson is this year's official emcee for the breakfast, and he introduced Congressmen Osborne and Terry. Each gave us a good recap of current issues in Washington and introduced guests. Even former Nebraskans participate in the gathering. One Nebraska family (parents and twelve children) was

traveling on a gospel singing tour. They expressed their enthusiastic support of the federal child tax deduction!

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Our delegation was very representative of Nebraska. Joining us were members from Bellevue, Omaha, Fremont, Columbus, Lincoln, Waterloo, Crete, and Hastings. In addition, members of the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors joined us at the lunch. The CPAs were in town for an annual meeting and the AGC group were doing a daylong fly-in to visit the delegation. No question, a good cross-section of Nebraska businesses was in Washington on April 30.

We arranged our luncheon in one of the rooms in the Russell Senate Office Building and hosted all of our delegation and their key staff. Prior to the lunch, we visited the offices of Senator Nelson and Senator Chuck Hagel, where we had excellent meetings with their staff. In fact, Senator Hagel stopped in for a brief chat and photo! Due to the hectic pace and uncertain times for voting, our delegation participated in our luncheon between meetings, speeches and votes. However, the time we had with the members and their staff, as well as the opportunity to ask questions, was quality time.

In fact, we Nebraskans might be a bit spoiled. In visiting with friends and peers in other states, it is almost

unheard of for “just folks” like us in the business community to participate in a down-to-earth lunch with our congressional delegation, be able to call direct to key staffers, and be on a first name basis with our federal representatives. That's part of what makes Nebraska such a great place to be in business. From the comfortable and welcoming weekly breakfast to the superb constituent services to the accessibility of our delegation, Nebraskans can really have an impact on federal affairs.

The following day, we had excellent presentations from the staff at the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, giving us updates on the progress of the President's Job Creation proposal, litigation reform, health care, labor relations, and trade issues. And also a good dose of politics!

As many of you know, the State Chamber works closely with the Nebraska congressional delegation on federal issues of concern to business. Our membership in the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gives the State Chamber a vital role for the business community in national issues, just as we are known as the “Voice of Nebraska business” regarding state issues. NAM and the U.S. Chamber are federations and the State Chamber works as the Nebraska representative of both groups. For the most part, we support the positions taken by both business groups on federal issues, although the State Chamber reserves the right to make its own decisions on issues of unique concern to Nebraska. (For example, we did part ways once with the U.S. Chamber on an issue dealing with ethanol, a vital component of our state's agribusiness economy.)

You all received a biennial listing of the Nebraska Congressional delegation, their staff, and office locations, phone and fax numbers in a past Executive mailing. Take advantage of the willingness of your delegation to help you on an issue, to provide the

*(Continued on next page)*

## Guest Editorial (Continued from page 2)

proper information on federal concerns, and to hear your views! While I gained a better perspective of the State Chamber's activities on the federal side during our trip, I also realized that one trip generally is not enough. The Columbus Chamber's delegation have made these trips often, and they credit the visits, over the years, towards helping the region get the funding for their arterial road project – one that benefits not only the business community, but the entire area.

Your State Chamber is on top of the key issues on the federal scene, and while not as intense as a 90- or 60-day Unicameral session, Congress essentially meets throughout the year. Make sure you know what's at stake and take advantage of your State Chamber membership to stay informed. ■

## Small Business Day

The **Small Business Council**, in cooperation with the Nebraska Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), co-hosted a Small Business Day at the Unicameral on April 24. Participants met at the State Capitol and heard from Senators on the latest developments in the budget shortfall debate and how the budget crisis developed. Members were also provided information on lobbying their Senators, a guide on how the legislative process works, and complete updates on bills of interest to the business community. Many took the opportunity to visit their Senators and present their views. Our thanks to all who took time to come to Lincoln and participate. Constituent voices are well received by the Senators, and your input goes a long way toward promoting the State Chamber's pro-business agenda. ■

## Labor Law Workshop Set For June 19

What employers need to know about union organizing efforts will be the focus of a Labor Law Workshop on June 19 at Mahoney State Park. The morning workshop will provide practical guidelines on how to prepare now for a possible union organizing campaign. Information will be provided on how to prepare both your supervisors and your organization to use all legal means to resist union organizing efforts. This workshop will be useful for your entire management team from the CEO to the first line supervisor. The session will begin in the morning. Further details are enclosed, or call Charlie Volnek at the State Chamber. ■

## State Chamber Leadership Workshops

There are four more workshops for employers planned for this year. According to Charlie Volnek, State Chamber Vice President-Operations, the schedule covers a number of subjects to aid employers.

**Wednesday, Sept. 10**

**Responding In Difficult Situations** (a.m. workshop)

**Leading Change** (p.m. workshop)

**Wednesday, Oct. 8**

**Responding Effectively in Conflicts** (a.m. workshop)

**Dealing with Employees With RADS\***

**(\*Responsibility Accountability Deficient Syndrome)** (p.m. workshop)

Speakers for the workshops are Steve Narans and Les Tighe of SilverStone Group. Enclosed are flyers with more details of the workshops, registration forms and costs. As always, State Chamber members receive discounted rates for these quality workshops. All will be held at Mahoney State Park, which can be reached by taking Exit 426 on I-80 in Ashland. ■

# Straight Talk

## Pat On The Back

◆ A number of State Chamber members were honored in April by the University of Nebraska's College of Business Administration. Receiving the Corporate Leadership Awards were: **Commercial Federal Bank of Omaha** and the **Kelley Bean Co., Inc.**, of Scottsbluff. Winners of the Business Leadership Award were: **Deryl F. Hamann** of Baird, Holm, McEachen, Pedersen, Hamann & Strasheim LLP, Omaha, and **Carrie L. Tolstedt** of Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco. **Jim Pillen** of Progressive Swine Technologies, Columbus, was awarded the Business Excellence Achievement Award. Congratulations to all!

◆ The Cornhusker Better Business Bureau honored two State Chamber members with its annual Integrity Awards last month. **Garner Industries**, Lincoln, earned the mid-size company award, while **Duncan Aviation**, Lincoln, won the large-size business award. The awards denote companies that demonstrate high standards of behavior toward customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders and communities. We're proud to have you as members! ■

## UNL Career Services Can Help Find Your Next Employee

The University of Nebraska Career Services can assist all employers looking for part-time, intern/co-op, and full-time employees. Becoming a Husker Hire Link member gives any employer the benefit of a 24-hour web-based ability to list jobs, view resumes, and monitor on-campus interview schedules.

In addition, Career Services has planned a number of Career Fairs and Events to help match future employees to employers. Please utilize the enclosed UNL Career Services flyer and make sure all of your human resources employees have copies.

# Fall Legislative Forums

The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry needs to hear from you this fall as we visit 28 Nebraska communities for our annual Legislative Forums during the weeks of September 15-18, September 22-25, and September 29-October 1. Dates and locations of the 2003 State Chamber Fall Legislative Forums follow.

This is your opportunity to tell us what's on your mind regarding legislation and to visit with your State Senators who are invited to all Forums in their districts. The 2003 Opinionnaire will be utilized at each Forum to gauge your responses to key issues and positions.

Times and dates will be finalized by your local chambers of commerce who host the Forums in their community and handle reservations. A listing of complete locations will be published in the July/August *Executive*. State Chamber elected leaders and executive staff members will be present to discuss issues and answer your questions.

Surveys have shown that employers are well regarded by their employees as a good source of information on elections and issues affecting their jobs and lifestyles. The Forums are a great

opportunity to give key employees a firsthand look at the legislative process, learn the issues, and meet their elected representatives. For more information, please contact the State Chamber office. ■



## Monday, Sept. 15

Lunch Aurora  
Dinner Hastings

## Tuesday, Sept. 16

Breakfast McCook  
Lunch Grand Island  
Dinner Columbus

## Wednesday, Sept. 17

Breakfast York  
Lunch Bellevue

## Thursday, Sept. 18

Breakfast Lincoln  
Lunch Fremont



## Monday, Sept. 22

Lunch O'Neill  
Holdrege  
Dinner Norfolk

## Tuesday, Sept. 23

Breakfast West Point  
Kearney  
Lunch S. Sioux City  
Cozad  
Dinner Wayne

## Wednesday, Sept. 24

Breakfast Seward  
Omaha  
Lunch Nebraska City

## Thursday, Sept. 25

Lunch Blair

## Monday, Sept. 29

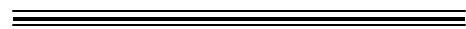
Breakfast Beatrice  
Lunch Broken Bow  
Dinner Ogallala

## Tuesday, Sept. 30

Breakfast North Platte  
Lunch Scottsbluff  
Dinner Sidney

## Wednesday, Oct. 1

Breakfast Alliance



## State Chamber Welcomes New "Investors"

Membership in the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry is an investment in Nebraska's economic well-being. This month, the State Chamber welcomes the following new members and encourages members to consider doing business with fellow Chamber members.

### AURORA

Penner Patient Care, Inc.

Lee Penner

Sponsor: Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications

### FORT CALHOUN

Wilson Manufacturing Company  
Suzanne Caruso

### HERSHEY

Olson Farms, Inc.  
Marcia Olson

### LAKEVILLE, MN

Schering-Plough External Affairs, Inc.  
Vaun C. Olhausen

### LINCOLN

Claritus  
David Herbert

Lincoln Machine, Inc.  
Robert L. Lichtenberg

National Research Corporation  
Pat Beans

Sponsor: Rich Bailey, Bailey Lauerman

### OMAHA

CETAC Technologies  
Chris J. Sunde

Monsanto  
Brad Lewis

Right Management Consultants  
Dennis Wellendorf

### WOODBURY, MN

Bayer Health Care  
Craig Mischo