

2006 Annual Meeting Highlights

The State Chamber's Annual Meeting was held on February 2 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. During the State Chamber Board meeting, Chairman Rich Bailey asked the Board to establish a new Leadership Nebraska Council (see Barry Kennedy's column on page 2). Governor Dave Heineman addressed the luncheon, which honors the local chambers of commerce across Nebraska and kicked off "Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Month." Governor Heineman noted some of the successes of the Nebraska Advantage program and outlined his plans for tax cuts and other priorities for this session.

The afternoon sessions featured the traditional Legislative Panel to bring members up to date on key business issues before the 2006 Unicameral. Speaker Kermit Brashear and Senators Pat Bourne, Tom Baker, Mick Mines, and Don Pederson appeared on the panel. In addition, the afternoon programs featured lively discussion on proposed workers' compensation reform legislation and an informative update on health care plan legislation and current medical spending account programs.

Some 38 Senators joined the 450 members for the Annual Banquet and Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony that evening. The banquet featured the traditional passing of the gavel from 2005 Chairman Gary Warren to 2006 Chairman Rich Bailey.

This year, the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame inducted four members: **Elizabeth Jane Robb Douglas, Crete, Douglas Manufacturing Corp. (Posthumously); Robert "Bobby" Gottsch, Hastings, Gottsch Enterprises; Bill Kubly, Lincoln, Landscapes Unlimited; and Bruce Lauritzen, Omaha, First National Bank.**

Four \$2,000 scholarships were presented. The Virgil Eihusen Scholarship was awarded to Cody Witt of Peru State College. The Jack Swartz Scholarship went to Jill Kawa of Creighton University. The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Scholarships were awarded to Marie Kristine Bruening of Creighton University and Heather Anne Davis of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This year's Annual Meeting featured Sponsors. Our thanks go to the following companies. Platinum Sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, First National Bank, First Data, and Nebraska Public Power District; Gold Sponsor: Altria; Silver Sponsors: Ameritas, Aquila, ConAgra Foods, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Kinder Morgan, Kirkham Michael, Lincoln Plating, Pinnacle Bank, and Qwest. ■



Top Left: K.C. Belitz, Columbus Chamber, Gov. Heineman, and Anne Anderson, Gothenburg Chamber, celebrate Chamber of Commerce Month. **Top Right:** Kim Zimmerman, Tom Whalen and Tony Sorrentino handled the Health Care presentation. **Center:** Chairman Rich Bailey presides at State Chamber Board meeting. **Bottom Left:** Senators Mines, Pederson, Brashear, Bourne and Baker at the Legislative Leaders Panel.



State Chamber Views...

Editorial by Barry Kennedy
President,
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Leadership"

Leadership: a complex word that defies definition.

For example, my dictionary uses the following phrases to define leadership: 1. The position or guidance of a leader; 2. The ability to lead; 3. The act or privilege of leading others; 4. The exercising of both the paramount and responsible authority over an organization or group; 5. Providing guidance on a course or direction by going in advance of; conducting by showing the way; 6. Accepting responsibility for inaugurating action designed to reach an objective.

Do these definitions really explain what leadership is or what it entails? Enter any major bookstore today and you will find shelves of books defining leadership. You will find that we are all leaders and we are leading all the time...be it well or poorly.

When you visualize leadership, it is easy for names like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, George Norris and others to cross your mind. On the other hand, notorious names in history may also slip through your mind. Each of these individuals had the ability to establish direction, create a vision and plan to implement the vision, motivate and inspire people to overcome barriers and produce change.

Nebraskans know what leadership looks like and we know that leadership needs to be developed - to point us in the right direction, give us the opportunity to agree on how to get there, and energize us to break through the obstacles in achieving success.

At the February 2 Board of Directors meeting, the Board of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry officially set into motion a course of leadership development by establishing a **Leadership Nebraska** program. Just as many local chambers have developed local leadership within their own communities, the State

Chamber is embarking on a program that will give people all across our state the tools to develop leadership in a tangible way to meet the needs of all Nebraska.

The Mission of Leadership Nebraska is to identify, educate, communicate, inspire and engage Nebraska's current and emerging leaders for the well being of the state of Nebraska.

Leadership Nebraska will give its participants a wide range of experiences and insights that focus on the issues and challenges facing Nebraska. Through this enhancement of awareness, the program will equip future leaders to better appreciate and understand the condition of the entire state.

Leadership Nebraska will host an integrated series of interactive meetings in different regions of the state. Topics will include government, agriculture, education, health care, economic development and other pertinent issues facing our state. There will be presentations by acknowledged leaders and experts in their respective fields as well as other learning activities to further leadership development.

Many local chambers have very effective leadership programs that help to meet the demand for qualified people to accept leadership roles in various sectors of their communities. There is a high demand for training to develop skills and talents that will prepare people to move into statewide or regional leadership roles. We believe the creation of a statewide program is a natural step forward for graduates of community-based programs. Participants of **Leadership Nebraska** will be individuals living and/or working in the state of Nebraska with proven leadership experience and an interest in continuing to advance the welfare of the people of Nebraska.

The State Chamber is now in the

process of establishing a "Leadership Nebraska Council" that will be working throughout the coming year to establish selection criteria, budget, programming and other necessary essentials for a successful program. The goal is to enroll the first class in early 2007.

The success of the program, both near term and long term, will lie with the graduates and their determination to take their experiences to enhance the good life of Nebraska. There will be program components to both track progress and maintain communication with **Leadership Nebraska** alumni to assure that the program is meeting its goals.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about the need for leadership development and how a **Leadership Nebraska** program can help meet that need, please do not hesitate to make your thoughts known to either our volunteer or staff leadership of the State Chamber. ■

Plan To Attend Washington Visit

The annual State Chamber Congressional visit to Washington will be May 2-4, 2006. As in past years, we will hold a luncheon at the Hart Senate Office Building on Wednesday, May 3, where members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and their chief staff members will join us. Attendees may attend the Nebraska Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in the Dirksen Office Building cafeteria. Also planned are an Issues Briefing at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on May 2 and a Federal Issues Briefing at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce headquarters on May 3.

Arrangements have been made with the Hilton Garden Inn, 815 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. (Phone: 202-783-7800). This hotel is two blocks from the White House and is convenient to downtown. Please take advantage of this opportunity for face-to-face meetings with your federal delegation.

Register on the enclosed flyer. For more information, please contact Don Mihovk at (402) 474-4422. ■

2007 Hall of Fame Nominations Requested

March 15, 2006, will be deadline for nominations to next year's Nebraska Business Hall of Fame. Nominations of outstanding Nebraskans may be sent to the State Chamber office as soon as possible.

Nominees can be either living or deceased individuals who have added to the prestige and growth of business in Nebraska. In addition, a recipient can be someone from large or small businesses and corporations, or anyone who has made a significant contribution to the private enterprise system.

Past honorees include: Earl T. Luff, Harry P. Seward, Jr., Thomas Creigh, Jr., Virgil R. Eihusen, Dr. Lewis E. Harris, Burnham Yates (awarded posthumously), Robert B. Daugherty, Robert B. Harris, Charles "Mike" Harper, Edwin J. Loutzenheiser, Jr., Clifton K. Hillegass, Robert L. Peterson, Kenneth L. Wortman, Duane W. Acklie,

Richard N. Cabela and James W. Cabela, V.J. Skutt (awarded posthumously), George P. Abel, Daniel W. Gardner, Walter Scott, Jr., Harold Warp (awarded posthumously), Warren E. Buffett, Alice M. Dittman, Rose Blumkin, Ernst Lied (awarded posthumously), Virgil L. Froehlich, Nathan J. Gold (awarded posthumously), Willis A. Strauss, Herman Cain, Kenneth L. Morrison, B. Keith Heuermann, Peter Kiewit (awarded posthumously), A.F. "Tony" Raimondo, James Stuart, Harriet Petersen Fort, Fred Hawkins, Sr., Dale LeBaron (awarded posthumously), Charles "Chuck" Sand, Jack Swartz, Charles W. Durham, Paul C. Mohr, Margaret Robinson, Joe R. Seacrest (awarded posthumously), J. Robert Duncan, Hugh W. Hunt and Richard A. Hunt, Edwin E. Perkins (awarded posthumously), C.L. Werner, Roy Dinsdale, Roy A. Smith, Thomas C.

Woods, Jr. (awarded posthumously), Walt, Mike, and Gib Behlen (awarded posthumously), Donald O. Clifton, Ph.D. (awarded posthumously), Richard K. Davidson, Henry H. "Hod" Kosman, Lawrence J. Arth, William A. Fitzgerald, E.H. "Shoey" Shoemaker, and Jan Thayer.

This year, the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame inducted four members: Elizabeth Jane Robb Douglas, Crete, Douglas Manufacturing Corp. (awarded posthumously); Robert "Bobby" Gottsch, Hastings, Gottsch Enterprises; Bill Kubly, Lincoln, Landscapes Unlimited; and Bruce Lauritzen, Omaha, First National Bank.

A Nomination form is enclosed with this month's *Executive*. ■

Annual Meeting Highlights



Clockwise from above: Rich Bailey presents Gary Warren with a plaque thanking Warren for his service as the 2005 Board Chairman. Chairman Rich Bailey thanking record Banquet crowd. Hall of Fame recipients Roger and Gayle-ann Douglas accepting for the Douglas family. Hall of Fame recipient Bruce Lauritzen. Hall of Fame recipient Bill Kubly. Hall of Fame recipient Bobby Gottsch.



FBLA Members Shadow State Chamber Staff

Five officers of the Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) spent the morning of February 21 "shadowing" State Chamber executives. Jordan Mueller, State FBLA President (Lakeview, Columbus); Cicily Jo Ronhovde, State Vice President (Elmwood-Murdock); MaryLou Andrews, State Secretary (Aurora); Jamie Dick, State Reporter (Aurora); and Andy Reynolds, State Parliamentarian (Wood River) met staff members at the regularly scheduled Public Affairs Council Meeting on Tuesday morning which featured Governor Dave Heineman. They accompanied State Chamber President Barry Kennedy, Vice President-General Counsel Ron Sedlacek, and Vice President-Public Affairs Don Mihovk as they proceeded through a typical morning.

"We thought it would be a good opportunity for these young citizens to meet a broad representation of the business community and see the interplay involved in working within the legislative process," noted Kennedy.

Later the FBLA members and staff visited the Legisla-

ture, met their state Senators, and were introduced at the Unicameral. Each member conferred with his or her State Chamber counterpart to gain knowledge of some of the daily tasks performed at the State Chamber and the general scope of the State Chamber's activities. The "shadowing" project is part of the State Chamber and the FBLA's Partnership Program.

For more information on the FBLA program, contact Vice President-Public Affairs Don Mihovk at the State Chamber. ■



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.

CLARKS

Strobel Construction
Unlimited, Inc.
Steven Strobel

COLUMBUS

Duo Lift Mfg. Co., Inc.
Jim Hellbusch

COZAD

Tenneco
Chief B. Davidson

DAVID CITY

David City Area Chamber
of Commerce
Virginia Rerucha

ELKHORN

Ximerex, Inc.
Nathan Bills, Ph.D.,
M.B.A.
Sponsor: Richard
Thompson, Net Net, Inc.

FREMONT

RTG Medical
Charlie L. Janssen
HARTINGTON
Gerry Miller Imple-
ment, Inc.
Rob Miller

HASTINGS

A-1 Fiberglass, Inc.
Dan Gernstein

Krieger Electric Co.
Scott Krieger

LINCOLN

Frosty's Specialty
Advertising, Inc.
Forrest Critchfield
Sponsor: Rich Bailey,
Bailey Lauerman

Natkin Service
Company
Marvin Burbach

Spectronics Corporation

John W. Damke
Tech Ed Solutions
Stacey Sell

Don Wesley

NEBRASKA CITY

Midwest Dermatology
Clinic, P.C.
Dr. Bert C. Frichot III

OMAHA

America First Communi-
ties
John "Mac" McLean

Craters and Freighters
Mike Jones

John Markel, Inc.
Tim Markel

Omaha Thoracic &
Cardiovascular Surgery,

P.C.

Thomas Langdon, M.D.
Spence Title Services,
Inc.
Janet Clark

Waitt Corp., LLC
Steven W. Seline

Sponsor: Patrick J.
Gorup, Lyman-Richey
Corporation

SCOTTSBLUFF

B & C Steel Corporation
Jim Reinhardt

SOUTH SIOUX CITY

South Sioux City
Economic Development
Dan McNamara