

THE EXECUTIVE

THE STATE CHAMBER 
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
March 2010

2010 Annual Meeting Highlights

On February 4, the State Chamber held its 2010 Annual Meeting and Legislative Caucus at The Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. Glenn Spencer, Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber's Workforce Freedom Initiative, briefed the State Chamber board on the latest federal developments in the areas of labor law and workplace regulations. Governor Dave Heineman spoke at the Chamber luncheon, which honored local chambers of commerce leaders from across the state. The Governor issued a proclamation declaring February "Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Month." Megan McGown, 2010 president of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives, recognized local chamber representatives in attendance.

The afternoon session featured the traditional "Legislative Leaders" panel, where state Senators Abbie Cornett, Deb Fischer, Steve Lathrop, Lavon Heidemann and Speaker Mike Flood addressed some of the top issues facing the 2010 Legislature. Another afternoon panel spotlighted the role of technology and innovation in Nebraska, as attendees heard from state-based

industry experts Ryan Downs, Steve Kiene, Dr. Jim McClurg, as well as Louis Buonomo of Hewlett-Packard. The "Federal Issues" panel featured talks from Karen Harbert, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, who outlined America's energy challenges, as well as Glenn Spencer, who updated attendees about labor policy concerns such as the "card check" bill.

In the evening, nearly 40 senators joined approximately 500 State Chamber members and the Governor for the Annual Banquet and Nebraska Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

(Continued on page 3)



Richard S. Reiser (right), 2010 Chairman of the State Chamber, accepts the gavel from 2009 Chairman Marc LeBaron.

State Chamber's D.C. Visit Slated for May 4-5

The State Chamber's 2010 congressional visit to Washington, D.C. will take place May 4-5. The event is open to all State Chamber members. Those participating in this year's visit will enjoy two full days of events that will leave them well informed and better connected with their federal representatives.

Some of the trip highlights include the federal issue briefings at the headquarters of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on May 4. Nebraska's Robert Milligan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce, plans to join the State Chamber at the U.S. Chamber briefing. Milligan, who is also Chairman of M I Industries, a Lincoln-based international animal and meat protein processing company, is the first Nebraskan ever elected to lead the nation's largest business organization.

Later on May 4, participants will be treated to a reception at the D.C. offices of Husch Blackwell Sanders, LLP, which provides a glorious view of the White House and Old Executive Office Building. That evening, participants are free to join the rest of the

(Continued on page 3)

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
PO Box 95128, Lincoln, NE 68509-5128
Tel: (402) 474-4422 Fax: (402) 474-5681
<http://www.nechamber.com>
nechamber@nechamber.com
Editor: Jamie Karl



State Chamber Views...

Editorial by Barry L. Kennedy, CAE, IOM
President
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Our National Affiliates"

In my last column, I highlighted a few of the major issues on which Nebraska's local chambers of commerce are providing leadership. These issues or programs are having a positive impact on communities and our state in general with regard to economic growth and job creation.

It only seems fair that we also look the other direction and pay a tribute to the national organizations affiliated with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Both the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) have provided excellent leadership and direction on very important federal legislative issues this past year.

In my twenty-plus years at the State Chamber, I do not remember a time when we have been as active on federal issues as we have been in the last couple of years. Issues like health care reform, card check, cap and trade, banking legislation, unemployment compensation, jobs legislation, stimulus funds and many others have made it imperative that we stay in constant contact with our federal congressional delegation on how these proposals could affect employers' ability to stay in business and grow.

With the support of our national affiliates, we have been able to follow the progress of the respective issues and communicate more effectively about our concerns. It is extremely important to have the most current and the most accurate information available when we contact one of Nebraska's congressional delegation members. Both the U.S. Chamber and NAM are always there to provide the necessary resources.

Those of you who attended this year's State Chamber Annual Meeting in February probably heard from the U.S. Chamber's Glenn Spencer and Karen Harbert. Karen, who runs the

U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, did a wonderful job outlining America's energy supply challenges and informing us how Nebraska can play a more meaningful role in meeting future energy demand. Glenn, who is Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Freedom Initiative, briefed State Chamber members on the anti-competitive agenda advocated by some members of Congress. His presentation made it clear that the business community and free enterprise are facing another challenging year in the federal arena.

Candice Daniels is Associate Director of Public Affairs for NAM and recently came to Nebraska for the third time to present NAM's Congressional Insight computer simulation for the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska class. Both organizations have also been extremely helpful when we take member delegations to Washington, D.C.

We are also fortunate in Nebraska to have two U.S. senators and three congressmen who are accessible and very willing to listen to our point of view on how federal legislation can affect Nebraska's ability to compete in a global economy.

Another benefit that Nebraskans have had this past year is the leadership of Bob Milligan, who is currently the Chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Bob is the first Nebraskan to ever serve in this capacity, and he has done so with a high level of commitment, competence and dignity. It has been my honor to attend several meetings where Bob has been a primary speaker, and I have been totally impressed with his understanding of the issues the Chamber federation has addressed.

In addition, Bob has a keen interest and awareness of the global economy.

He knows how trade agreements, international affairs and other world events impact Nebraska's and America's competitiveness. He can articulate these interests to individuals from any business sector.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Bob Miligan this year for the extensive work he has done on our behalf.

The State Chamber's primary focus is still the Nebraska Legislature and state issues such as tax climate, economic development initiatives and labor relations policies. More than ever, however, our members are asking us to weigh in on legislation being considered on Capitol Hill. When we must do so, it is reassuring to know that we have competent, respected partners like the U.S. Chamber and NAM in our corner.

With their help, the State Chamber has become an even more effective organization, encouraging our elected leaders - at home and in Washington - to foster a climate in which free enterprise can prosper. ■



FBLA Shadows Chamber Staff

February 23 was FBLA "Shadow Day" at the State Chamber, as Nebraska FBLA State Vice President Lance Johnson spent most of the morning with State Chamber staff. Lance, a senior at Bellevue West High School, participated in the State Chamber's Public Affairs Council meeting and toured the State Chamber's headquarters. Later, he visited the State Capitol and met with his representative, Senator Abbie Cornett of Bellevue, after he observed legislative activity from the floor of the Legislature. The shadowing project is part of the State Chamber's and the FBLA's Partnership Program. Lance is pictured above with State Chamber President Barry Kennedy and Senator Cornett. ■

Leadership Nebraska Class Underway

The first meeting of State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska Class IV was held in mid-February at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. The 21 members of the class participated in an orientation session that featured presentations by the program's alumni, a talk with University of Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne, a presentation by Nebraska Historical Society's Director Michael Smith, and sessions on key Nebraska issues.

"The program is aimed at persons who have demonstrated community and professional leadership experiences, to help them hone their leadership skills and gain a broader understanding of issues facing Nebraska," said Tom Whalen, chairman of the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska Council.

The Class IV members come from across Nebraska and range from volunteers, business leaders, philanthropic workers, educators, and small business owners. They are: Shanie Bockmann, Leadership Tomorrow, Grand Island; Kelly Christensen, Central Community College, Hastings; Brian Copsy, JBC Inc., Scottsbluff; Jeannine Falter, Duncan Aviation, Lincoln; John Fruhwirth, CPA, Omaha; Topher

Hansen, CenterPointe, Lincoln; Cindy Jeffrey, Health Education, Inc., Lincoln; Angela Jones, ConAgra Foods, Omaha; Joy Mace, Ameritas, Lincoln; Jeff McEwin, ConAgra Foods, Omaha; Kristi Nohavec, Clark Enerson Partners, Lincoln; Mary Plettner, NPPD, Norfolk; Larry Ramaekers, Aurora Public Schools, Aurora; Jan Rodehorst, Kearney Chamber of Commerce, Kearney; Sharon Schilling, SchillingBridge Winery, Pawnee City; Jason Sokolewicz, NPPD, Lincoln; Robin Stanosheck, Grant Writer, Odell; Lisa Turner, Turner Events, Omaha; Doris Urwin, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue; Annette Wiles, Wiles Development, Plattsmouth; and Joseph Young, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Lincoln.

Application forms for the next class may be submitted beginning in April, 2010. Those interested in applying are not required to have a third party nomination; self-nominations are encouraged.

For more information on any aspect of the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska program, please contact Executive Director Don Mihovk at the State Chamber office, or log on to NebraskaLeadership.nechamber.com. ■

2010 Annual Meeting Highlights

(Continued from page 1)

The banquet featured the traditional passing of the gavel from 2009 State Chamber Chairman **Marc LeBaron**, Chairman and CEO of Lincoln Industries, Lincoln, to 2010 Chairman **Richard S. Reiser**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Werner Enterprises, Omaha. The day ended with the 2010 Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony. New Hall of Fame members are: **Abe Baker** (deceased) of Omaha, Baker's Supermarket; **Joe Hampton** of Lincoln, Hampton Enterprises; **C.G. "Kelly" Holthus** of York, Cornerstone Bank; and **John P. Nelson** of Omaha, SilverStone Group.

See the insert for photos from the 2010 State Chamber Annual Meeting and Business Hall of Fame Banquet.

State Chamber's D.C. Visit

(Continued from page 1)

State Chamber members for dinner or make their own arrangements. Some of the entertainment possibilities include The Kennedy Center, Ford's Theater, or a Nationals baseball game.

On May 5, attendees will be able to take part in the traditional Nebraska Breakfast, the oldest ongoing gathering of its kind on Capitol Hill. Participants may then choose to visit congressional offices. At noon, the annual State Chamber congressional luncheon with Nebraska's U.S. senators and congressmen and key staff members, sponsored by Nebraska Public Power District, will be held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Cost to take part in the State Chamber fly-in is \$60 per attendee. Participants are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements. Rooms have been reserved at The Henley Park Hotel. Call 1-800-222-8474 and mention the Nebraska Chamber to receive a discount rate of \$249 per night. Participants may stay at any hotel of their choice.

For more details about the State Chamber's D.C. visit or to register, contact the State Chamber's Jamie Karl, Vice President-Public Affairs, at (402) 474-4422 or jkarl@nechamber.com. ■

Nebraskans Attend Institute in Tucson

Several Nebraskans participated in January's Institute for Organizational Management (IOM) session in Tucson, Arizona. IOM is a four-year professional development program administered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The program covers a wide range of non-profit management issues vital to chambers of commerce, including membership recruitment and retention, legal issues, budgeting and marketing. Graduates of the program receive the IOM recognition, signifying successful completion of 96 hours of course instruction.

The following Nebraska chamber professionals took part in this year's IOM session:



Front Row – Carol Nelson Bodeen, North Platte (graduated); Susan Bennett, Lexington (graduated); Orla Kitt, Ogallala/Keith County (second year); Megan Lucas, Bellevue (instructor/advisor). Back Row – Jamie Henning, Lincoln (graduated); James Spangler, Beatrice (first year); Kyle Fischer, Lincoln (first year); Dennis Houston, Norfolk (first year); James Berringer, State Chamber (third year).

State Chamber Board Members Honored

Recently, several members of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board of Directors have been honored with prestigious awards. Some of these board members include:

♦ **Richard S. Reiser**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Werner Enterprises in Omaha, was awarded the James E. Ryan Golden Deeds award, the highest honor from the Nebraska Trucking Association. *Nebraska Trucker* magazine notes that Reiser has been a longtime leader with the American Trucking Association, Greater Omaha Chamber, State Chamber, Nebraska Highway Commission, and several other organizations and groups. Reiser is the current Chairman of the State Chamber board.

♦ **Steve Ford**, General Manager of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. in Lincoln, was presented the Nebraska Society of CPAs' 2009 Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry Award. Ford has been with LinPepCo for nearly 25 years and oversees more than 300 employees. Ford is the current District II Vice Chairman for the State Chamber.

♦ **Jack A. Schreiner**, President of Bruckman Rubber Co. in Hastings, earned the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce's Max Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the chamber or community. In addition to his service to the State Chamber, Schreiner serves on the advisory boards for the Hastings Chamber, Southeast Community College, the Hastings Area Manufacturing Association and several other groups. Schreiner is the current District IV Vice Chairman for the State Chamber.

♦ **Gayle McClure**, Director of Environmental Affairs for Dutton-Lainson Co. in Hastings, was the recipient of the Hastings Chamber Community Service Award, which honors those who have outstanding credentials in business, education or community service. Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy presented the award to McClure in February, noting that McClure has been with Dutton-Lainson since 1959, working his way up to senior vice president from 1994-2005. McClure served as Chairman of the State Chamber board in 2003. ■

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. We encourage you to consider doing business with fellow Chamber members.

BELLEVUE

SAC Federal Credit Union
Gail L. DeBoer

LINCOLN

Milder Manor
Tim Nauslar

NORFOLK

The Granary Rice
David Aase

Packaging Corporation of America
Dan Baker

BRUNING

Norder Supply, Inc.
Tim Norder

Recommended by Chris Roth, Reinke Manufacturing Co., Inc.

T.O. Haas Tire Co., Inc.
George Hoellen

Husker Auto Group
Fil Catania

NORTHPLATTE

American Mortgage Co.
Dean Niedan

Rite-Style Optical Co.
George P. Lee

West Corporation
David C. Mussman

COLUMBUS

CED/Enterprise Electric
Pat Barry

Lincoln Radiology Group, P.C.
Dustin Ledgerwood

National Student Loan Program, Inc.
Randy Heesacker

OMAHA

Active Business Network, Inc.
Jim Gregg
Recommended by Richard Thompson, zyman group

PENDER

Christiansen Construction Co. LLC
Greg Christiansen

Choice Transport
Heidi Loop

FREMONT

All Metals Market, Inc.
Kevin Yount

Parsons Brinckerhoff
Karl Fredrickson

AOI Corporation
Marlene Knight

PLAINVIEW
Husker Ag, LLC
Seth Harder

GRANDISLAND

AXIS Capital, Inc.
Gordon Glade

Recommended by Tim White, Beaver Creek Marketing

Rustad Dermatology
Elliott Rustad, M.D.

MITCHELL

High Plains Feed Yard, Inc.
Gene Koehler

Ballantyne of Omaha, Inc.
John Wilmers

Greater Omaha Refrigeration Co.
Bill Rolles

SCHUYLER

Schuyler Area Chamber of Commerce

HOLDREGE

Phelps County Development Corp.
Monica Boyken

NEBRASKACITY

LeGrand Financial
David M. LeGrand

Johnson Hardware Co. LLC
Richard Nicoll

Marianna Industries, Inc.
Bob Campney