

THE EXECUTIVE

THE STATE CHAMBER

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

December 2006

New State Chamber Board Members Elected

Effective January 1, 2007, **Tom L. Whalen**, Principal, SilverStone Group, Inc., Omaha, will begin

his duties as Chairman of the Board of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He succeeds **Rich Bailey**, Chairman, Bailey Lauerman, Lincoln, as the State Chamber's chief elected



Tom Whalen

officer and will receive the gavel February 1, 2007, at the State Chamber's Annual Meeting & Legislative Caucus in Lincoln.

The 2007 Chairman-Elect will be **G. Lee Glenn**, Vice President/CFO, Kelley Bean Co., Scottsbluff. **John E. Cederberg, CPA**, Lincoln, was re-elected Treasurer, and **Barry L. Kennedy, CAE, IOM**, Lincoln, will continue to be President and Corporate Secretary. **Bailey** remains on the Executive Council as Immediate Past Chairman.

Whalen directs the activities and development of SilverStone in providing human resources consulting

services in the areas of compensation (base, incentive and executive), policy development, organizational development, training, planning, compliance and employee relations. A graduate of Midland Lutheran College, Tom's career has been in human resource development. An active member of the Omaha community, Tom is a member of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board, Board of Directors, Nebraska Industrial Competitiveness Alliance, and the Omaha 2000 Steering Committee. He has served as Chairman of the State Chamber's Education Council and held numerous positions on state and local boards, many with a focus on education. In addition, he has found time to be a little league coach and scout leader for his son. He and his wife, Mary, have a son, Sean, and a daughter, Wendy.

Elected to the 2007 State Chamber Executive Council as District Vice Chairmen were: **Galen F. Ullstrom**, Senior Vice President, Mutual of Omaha-United of Omaha, Omaha, District I; **Marc LeBaron**, Chairman and CEO, Lincoln Plating Co., Lincoln, District II; **S. Michael Jensen**, CEO, Great Plains Communications, Inc., Blair, District III; **Brian C. Hamilton**, President, Beardmore Chevrolet, Inc., Bellevue, District IV; **Raymond C. Ward, Ph.D.**, President & Co-Owner, Ward Laboratories, Inc., Kearney, District V; and **Joanne F. Shephard**, President & CEO, First National Bank of Valentine, Valentine, District VI. **Hamilton** was re-elected to his post.

At the State Chamber's final 2006 Board Meeting, nine new directors were introduced. Those elected by mail ballots by the membership include: **Rex Fisher**, President, Qwest Communications, Omaha; **Hugh Fugleberg**, President & COO, Great West Casualty Co., South Sioux City; and **Jeffrey M. Scherer**, CFO, Smeal Fire Apparatus Co., Snyder.

New Directors joining the State Chamber Board by Chairman's appointment include: **Michael Baldino, P.E.**, Baldino Enterprises, LLC, Omaha; **George G. Beattie**, Executive Vice President, Nebraska Bankers Association, Lincoln; **Ralph W. Castner**, CFO, Cabela's, Inc., Sidney; **Robert Hinson**, Vice President & Deputy General Manager, Northrop Grumman, Bellevue; **Brian Kavanaugh**, President, Nebraska Junior Chamber of Commerce, Ralston; **Dan S. Mauk, IOM**, President, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Norfolk; **Robert Meaney**, Senior Vice President, Valmont Industries, Inc., Omaha; and **Gary A. Perkins, CHE**, President and CEO, Children's Hospital, Omaha.

Re-elected to the Board were: **Aaron C. Hilkemann**, President, Duncan Aviation, Inc., Lincoln; **Dan Koch**, President, Perrin Manufacturing, Inc., Alliance; **Philip Mullin**, CEO/Owner, Garner Industries, Lincoln; **Tonn M. Ostergard**, President & CEO, Crete Carrier Corp., Lincoln; **Dan C. Park**, Senior Vice President, Kirkham Michael, Omaha; **Richard S. Reiser**, Executive Vice President & General

(Continued on page 3)

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State Chamber Views...

Editorial by Barry L. Kennedy

President,

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Term Limits: Who Wins?"

There continues to be much discussion on who benefits most with legislative term limits.

In discussions with my counterparts in other states who already have dealt with the implementation of term limits, there seems to be a consensus opinion: the executive branch of government benefits most.

When you stop and think about it, that conclusion appears to make sense. All new State Senators have knowledge or expertise in one field or another, but not on every issue. As they are faced with issues they are not totally familiar with, they will seek the information to make reasoned decisions.

It is only logical that one source that they will seek are the state agencies that regulate the issues under deliberation. If it is an environmental issue, they might ask the Department of Environmental Quality for additional information on that issue. If they are faced with a question on insurance contracts, they would seek answers from the Department of Insurance. It would be easy to carry this line of logic on through just about every issue and connect it to some state agency or department.

As most state agencies are part of the executive branch of government,

many of the department heads are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Therefore, the Governor's office will have greater opportunities to influence opinions and affect the decisions made within the legislative branch of government. Career staff of these same agencies will also exercise a great deal of influence.

Statewide organizations, such as the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry, also have an opportunity to become more effective in communicating their point of view on important issues. The State Chamber has members in every legislative district... each State Senator has State Chamber members as constituents.

We know that elected officials always listen to the voices of constituents. When State Chamber members, as constituents, become engaged, keep informed on the issues of importance and communicate their concerns to their elected representatives, our members will have a positive impact on issues that affect our ability to grow and prosper in Nebraska.

Our job, as a statewide business organization, continues to be one of monitoring and evaluating every proposal and its effect on business,

industry, employers and the Nebraska economy. We will be working for ways to more effectively communicate information to every one of our members in every legislative district. As a State Chamber member and as an active constituent, you will be able to communicate with your State Senator more effectively.

As part of our communication efforts, you will receive the Legislative Report highlighting key actions and hearings on bills of interest to the business community. We are also planning to do more with electronic communications to keep you informed in a timely fashion. We will also continue to use VoterVOICE.net as a tool to deliver Action Alerts that will direct members to our website, match the member to their elected officials and allow the member to send a message to those elected officials.

This is the bottom line. Your efforts as an informed member, coupled with the professional staff's daily efforts, give us the best opportunity to put the business community in the winner's column as we observe the effects of term limits in years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you might have or to request additional information on an issue of importance to you. We urge you to maintain a close relationship with your State Senator and be willing to contact him/her on how certain issues affect your business and your employees. Working together, we will grow Nebraska's economy.

Resiliency Solutions Newest Member Benefit

As a statewide federation of business firms and organizations, large and small, the State Chamber is dedicated to economic progress and the preservation of a sound business climate. We understand the importance of all businesses in Nebraska being prepared for the challenges facing them. To that end, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry is pleased to announce its

endorsement of Resiliency Solutions as the newest Membership Benefit Partner/Provider.

Resiliency Solutions provides both private and public sector organizations with consulting in the areas of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery program planning services. Their staff of certified professionals has helped clients of all sizes and in all industries across the U.S. be prepared for

threats which might disrupt normal business operations.

As a member of the State Chamber, you can take advantage of a negotiated rate savings. Resiliency Solutions has a link on the State Chamber webpage, or click to www.resiliencysolutions.com for more information. ■

General Elections Update

The November 7 General Election gave Nebraska 21 new State Senators. With the election of Senator Mike Foley (Dist. 29) as State Auditor, Governor Heineman chose Lincoln businessman Tony Fulton to fill the two years remaining on Foley's term. The District 12 seat still remains undecided due to the close vote and a recount was being held at presstime.

Governor Dave Heineman garnered some 70% of the vote to win his first full term as Governor. New faces among the State Constitutional officers are Foley (Auditor) and Treasurer Shane Osborne. Secretary of State John Gale and Attorney General Jon Bruning were re-elected. On the federal side, Senator Ben Nelson handily won re-election and

returns to Washington in the majority party as Democrats won control of both houses of Congress.

First District Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and Second District Congressman Lee Terry were re-elected, while State Senator Adrian Smith won a tough race for the open Third District seat.

The State Chamber continued its long-time tradition of hosting newly-elected state senators at dinner during their orientation week. Seventeen of the new members and their spouses joined State Chamber Chairman Rich Bailey, Chairman-Elect Tom Whalen, Past Chairman Gary Warren, State Chamber staff and Clerk of the Legislature Patrick O'Donnell for an enjoyable evening of fellowship and humorous campaign trail stories. ■



Chairman-Elect Tom Whalen makes a point on the value of public service at the State Chamber Dinner for newly-elected State Senators.

New State Chamber Board Members (Continued from page 1)

Counsel, Werner Enterprises, Inc., Omaha; **Dennis Swanson**, President, Sandhill Equipment, Inc., Bassett; **Mark D. Theisen**, Executive Vice President Finance & Treasurer, Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, Omaha; **Tim D. White**, Director of Public Relations, Central Bio-Energy, LLC, Grand Island; and **Matthew H. Williams**, President, Gothenburg State Bank & Trust Co., Gothenburg.

Re-appointed to the Board by incoming Chairman Tom Whalen are: **Anne Anderson**, Executive Director, Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Gothenburg; **Mike Lee**, General Manager & Vice President, NUCOR Steel, Division of NUCOR Corp., Norfolk; and **James B. Milliken**, President, University of Nebraska,

Lincoln.

The State Chamber expressed its appreciation to the following Directors, who will be retiring from the Board on December 31, 2006: **K.C. Belitz**, President, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbus; **Brett A. Drake**, President, Nebraska Junior Chamber of Commerce, Omaha; **Allen M. Fredrickson**, President/CEO, Signature Performance, L.L.C., Omaha; **Ronald K. Parks**, President & CEO, Millard Manufacturing Corp., Sarpy County; **Michael G. Hybl**, Director of Government Affairs, Consortia Consulting, Lincoln; **Dwayne B. Probyn**, Director, Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition, Omaha; and **Ronald E. Vavrina**, President, Vacin Inc., Clarkson. ■

Jamie Karl Joins Chamber Staff



Jamie Karl

The State Chamber hired Jamie Karl as Vice President—Public Affairs & Policy effective December 1, 2006. Karl is a native of Saline County and has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

After graduation he served in the U.S. Army from 1997-1999. He began work afterwards as Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel in Washington and worked on the federal 2002 Farm Bill. He became Legislative Director to U.S. Congressman Lee Terry from 2003 to 2005. He joined the Nebraska Department of Agriculture as Assistant Director in June of 2005. Most recently, Karl worked on Adrian Smith's successful campaign for the Third District seat this past fall.

Effective January 1, 2007, Don Mihovk will assume the duties of Executive Director for the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska program. Mihovk will continue to work on State Chamber projects such as the Business Hall of Fame video, Fall Legislative Forums, and working with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives organization.

Karl will assume responsibility for the *Executive*, news releases, the *Legislative Report*, legislative monitoring, State Chamber Council staffing, and lobbying efforts. Please welcome Jamie to the State Chamber staff! ■

2007 Annual Meeting & Legislative Caucus February 1

Mark your calendars for the State Chamber's Annual Meeting and Legislative Caucus set for Thursday, February 1, 2007, at The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Lincoln. A full program will provide Nebraska business people an opportunity to meet with members of the Nebraska Legislature and state policy-makers, to salute the achievements of four of Nebraska's business leaders, and to get a first-hand briefing on important legislative issues of concern to the business community.

Late registration will begin in the Atrium of The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Board of Directors meeting, scheduled from 10:00-11:45 a.m. The traditional Chamber of Commerce Month kickoff luncheon follows at noon.

The afternoon sessions will feature the traditional Legislative Panel to update members on key business issues before the 2007 Unicameral. The evening banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m., following the social hour in The Cornhusker Marriott Atrium. The banquet will feature the traditional passing of the gavel from 2006 Chairman **Rich Bailey** to 2007 Chairman **Tom Whalen**. The Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony will begin at 8:00 p.m., and

the banquet will conclude with closing comments by Chairman Whalen.

The registration form is enclosed with this issue of the *Executive*. ■

Membership Directory Sales Continues

The advertising sales campaign for the 2007 State Chamber Membership and Business Directory continues this month. Kane Underwood, a professional advertising representative of Lawton Publications, will be in contact with members across the state to present exciting advertising opportunities to you. Take a quick minute and compute how many times you utilize the Directory, then factor in that over 1,400 fellow members see it as well. Your message and listing will also be seen by many others, as the Directory is utilized by economic development recruiting efforts by the state and at employee recruiting opportunities, particularly at state colleges and universities.

We would ask you to please review your Directory for proper listings, addresses, phone numbers, etc. Then make a point of noting businesses who are NOT listed. Take a copy of your old Directory and let them know they should be a member of the State Chamber, just like smart businesses such as yours! ■

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.

CHAPPELL

First National Bank
Dwight Smith

ELKHORN

J.D. Heiskell Holdings LLC
Ryan Pellett

FAIRBURY

Schwab & Bauer P.C.
Ronald L. Schwab

GERING

Sandberg Implement, Inc.
Kelly Sandberg

GRAND ISLAND

Central Bio-Energy, LLC
Tim White

LINCOLN

Americom Communications
Corey Odvody

Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson &
Endacott, LLP
Kevin R. McManaman

Pickering Creative Group
Gary Pickering

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. &
Subsidiaries
Bob Widhelm

Dale C. Tinstman

OMAHA

Dave Arch & Associates
Scharlie Fitts

Baldino Enterprises, LLC
Michael Baldino, P.E.

Coaching By Connection
Larry F. Willis

Nebraska Credit Union League, Inc.
J. Scott Sullivan

SUTTON

Sutton Area Chamber of Commerce
Amy Skalka

THURSTON

Thurston Manufacturing Company
Layton W. Jensen

WATERLOO

Golden Harvest
Rob Robinson

YORK

Advanced Agri-Direct USA Inc.
Janet Heldt

*Sponsor: Vayden Anderson, Overland
Ready Mixed Concrete Co.*