



20 Years Down — 21 Years Old in 2012!

*Celebrate your successes
at the annual meeting
with your fellow members!*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clarence Moshier, Adair
Martin Olive, Adams
Alec Turner, Adams
Keith Harlan, Cass
Russell Joyce, Cass

Kenner Baxter, Cass
Margaret Johnson, Fremont
Twila Larson, Fremont
Joe Blankenship, Mills
Steve Adams, Montgomery
George Maher, Montgomery

Dale McAllister, Page
Lori Holste, Pottawattamie
Karen Bender, Ringgold
Bill Henderson, Taylor
Bob Jansen, Union

Join the voices that help keep rural, southwest Iowa strong!

[Download a membership form here!](#)

Southwest Iowa Coalition 2011 Annual Membership Report

www.swico.org

2011 Members - Thank you!

✧ 2011 Austin Turner Award

The 2011 Austin B. Turner, III Memorial Leadership and Scholarship Fund award recipient was Jim Robinson. Jim is a resident of Villisca in Montgomery County. He has volunteered his time through the years and taken on leadership positions to continue to help his local community meet challenges and find successes that contribute to increasing the quality of life in rural southwest Iowa. He worked through the years and long-time community leader while also running his main street business.

2012 nominations are now open and due by the first week of April. You may download a nomination form at swico.org.

✧ SWICO Sub-committee on Entrepreneurship

A group of members formed a working sub-committee to further develop an appropriate support system for entrepreneurs that will target, identify and nurture the expanded growth of small businesses throughout communities in southwest Iowa.

With assistance from the Rural Policy Research Institute's Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and ISU Extension to Community Economic Development, the working group will have a published business plan by late January. The plan calls for further development of the regional hub to assist local sub-hubs in six targeted areas. Any group within any community can apply to be a sub-hub. Training workshops and materials will be delivered on request to the sub-hub leadership. Direct services to entrepreneurs can also be requested by sub-hubs to meet the need and fill gaps to more rapidly accelerate enterprise starts and expansions.

The full business plan will be posted on the swico.org website. Top-end data and reports from the group's strategic planning sessions can be accessed now from the site.

✧ 2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The 2012 membership drive begins now. The board and your fellow members appreciate your dues support and hope you will continue that support as well as share the opportunity for membership and participation with others. **2012 Goal = \$16,000!**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Regional advocacy support for issues affecting your local development work and businesses,
- Use of SWICO's organizational structure to secure funding for infrastructure and regional projects which have resulted in millions of dollars through the years,
- Networking opportunities with your peer leadership for learning and partnering,
- Opportunities to meet with state and federal agency representatives, policymakers and legislators,
- Participation in developing an annual legislative agenda addressing current and pending issues,
- Timely alerts and notices of news, meetings and events,
- Use of the SWICO website to post local news and announcements to reach a broader audience,
- Use of the SWICO email list to request advocacy assistance or quickly share time sensitive opportunities and news.

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|---|--|
| Noah Clark | First National Bank, Massena |
| Dan Morgan | Fremont County Farm Bureau |
| Jerry Putnam | Fremont Economic Development Corporation |
| Denny Bloom | Glenwood State Bank |
| Ken Pangburn | Glenwood/Mills Community Chamber of Commerce and Ec. Dev. Foundation |
| Alec Turner | Grundman Insurance |
| A.M. Cohron & Sons, Inc. | Houghton State Bank |
| Adams Community Chamber of Commerce | Iowa Area Development Group |
| Adams Community Economic Development Corp | Iowa State Savings Bank - Corning |
| Adams County Board of Supervisors | Iowa State Savings Bank - Creston |
| Adams County Commission on Sustainability | Iowa State Savings Bank - Lenox |
| Agri-solutions | Lenox Development Corporation |
| Akin Building Centers: Corning, Atlantic, Clarinda, Creston | Lenox Municipal Utilities |
| A-Plus Designs | McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, PC LLO |
| Bank Iowa - Clarinda | McMahon Drug Store |
| Bank Iowa - Red Oak | MidAmerican Energy |
| Bank Iowa - Shenandoah | Midwest Opportunities |
| Bunge Corporation | Midwest Partnership Development Corporation |
| Camblin Mechanical, Inc. | Mills County Board of Supervisors |
| Cass County Board of Supervisors | Mills County Farm Bureau |
| Cass County Supervisors | Montgomery Co Development Corp |
| Cass-Atlantic Development Corporation | Montgomery County Farm Bureau |
| City of Fontanelle | Montgomery County Memorial Hosp |
| City of Griswold | Montgomery County Supervisors |
| City of Red Oak | P.R.I.D.E. - Cass County |
| City of Shenandoah | Page County Federal Savings Association |
| City of Stanton | Page County State Bank |
| City of Villisca | Panora Communications Coop |
| Clarinda Chamber of Commerce | Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association |
| Community Development Corporation of Greenfield | Red Oak Chrysler Dodge Jeep |
| Corning Nursing & Rehab Center | Ringgold County Board of Supervisors |
| Diagonal Community Development Corporation | Ringgold County Development Corp. |
| Farmers Mutual Telephone Co | Southwest Iowa Planning Council |
| Farmers Trust & Savings Bank | Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative |
| First National Bank, Anita | Titan Machinery |
| First National Bank, Fontanelle | Union County Board of Supervisors |
| First National Bank, Greenfield | Wallace Foundation for Rural Research & Development |
| | Western Iowa Development Association |

2011 Meeting Dates and Suggested Locations

Contact the office if you want to host a meeting in your county.

Member meetings begin at 6 PM with dinner.

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|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Jan. 19th | Annual Meeting | Villisca — The Bank |
| Feb. 16th | Board & Member Meeting Capitol Visit by Delegates | TBA |
| March 15th | Board & Member Meeting | TBA |
| April 19th | Board & Member Meeting | Happy Hollow: Corning |
| May 17th | Board Meeting | Red Oak Office |
| June 21th | Board & Member Meeting | Fremont: Location TBA |
| July 19th | Board Meeting | Red Oak Office |
| August | Summer Break | ———— |
| Sept. 20th | Candidates Forum | Creston: Location TBA |
| Oct. 18th | Board & Member Meeting | TBA |
| Nov. 15th | Board Meeting | Red Oak Office |
| December | Winter Break | ———— |

✧ 2011 Activity Highlights

January Annual Meeting: The meeting was held on January 20, 2011 in Red Oak. The membership approved by unanimous consent the 2011-2013 slate of board members who were: Steve Adams, Montgomery, Lori Holste, Pottawattamie, Karen Bender, Ringgold and Bob Jansen, Union counties. The board elected its officers for 2011 who were: President Joe Blankenship, Vice-President Margaret Johnson, Secretary George Maher and Treasurer Kenner Baxter.

February Legislative Visit to the State Capitol: The board appointed board members Adams, Baxter, Blankenship and Olive to carry the 2011 Annual Agenda of Priorities to Des Moines. The delegation visited personally with Governor Branstad and House and Senate leadership about the agenda topics which included:

- Opposition to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) changes.
- Support of a tax on water bottles.
- The creation of jobs through legislative funding to support local food product development.
- The support to fully fund TIME 21.
- Opposition to closing or further downsizing of the region's mental health facility.

A copy of the full 2011 Legislative Agenda of Priorities developed by the board and membership is available at swico.org.

March Meeting: Members met at the Martin House in Atlantic for dinner and business.

April Meeting: Members met at the Happy Hollow Country Club in Corning for dinner, business and the presentation of the annual Austin Turner III Memorial and Scholarship Fund Award.

May: The board conducted business on behalf of the membership.

June Meeting: Members met in Avoca at the Embers Restaurant for dinner and business.

July: The board conducted business on behalf of the membership.

September: Members hosted the annual legislative forum which was held in Atlantic at the Atlantic Country Club.

Annual Board Planning Retreat: The board met in Red Oak to plan 2012 activities and review the slate of nominees for the coming term.

✧ 2010 Advocacy and Major Accomplishments

2011 Congressional Stalemate: Members watched carefully the piece of legislation to fund a statewide local farm and food coordinator as it was passed through committees and tossed back and forth between the House and Senate chambers. In the end, direct communications to legislators representing the region explaining its important to rural economic vitality resulted in an amendment and passage of the legislation by securing a key vote. Thank you in particular to Representative Drake for his consideration of and then submitting the amendment to return the funding to the legislative bill.

TIME 21: Advocacy continued for the transportation fund. Members continue to express concern about the correlation between healthy commerce and the region's transportation system.

HWY 34 Bridge: Transportation Co-chair, Larry Winum from Mills County continues to keep guard over the funding that has been directed to complete the Hwy 34 bridge and open up a commerce corridor in southwest/southern Iowa. The floods delayed dirt work for a while, but work is now continuing.

Workforce Development Offices: SWICO opposed the closing of rural offices; especially with the lack of substantiating documentation to justify the selection process for elimination.

Commercial Tax Reduction: SWICO board members joined with other development organizations voicing concern about the burden local governments would be under to continue to provide services with the loss of revenue that would occur from the governor's proposed commercial tax reduction.

✧ 2009 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

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|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Dues..... | \$12,925 | Total Income | \$15,291 |
| Other Income | \$ 2,366 | Total Expenses | \$20,100 |
| Fixed | | | |
| Annual Expenses: | Meetings | 1,581 | Memorial..... 250 |
| | Office | 242 | Payroll.....16,500 |
| | Insurance..... | 657 | Website..... 191 |

The board had discussion at its annual planning meeting about the attrition in dues paying members it has experienced in the last three years. The number of dues paying members has remained relatively unchanged. However, new memberships have come in at a lower dues rate than those which were lost.

SWICO was current with all outstanding financial obligations at the fiscal year end of 2011. To maintain its organizational structure going forward, board and members will need to increase the number of dues paying members. The goal for 2012 is \$16K.

The Coalition ran its first membership drive in 2006 in order to put a part-time coordinator in place to better organize communications and activities. It was noted that dues have remained the same through its 20 years of operation in an effort to keep participation accessible to as many people as possible. However, 2012 dues will increase slightly for existing members as other organizations have had to do.

The board was in a consensus of agreement that the Coalition is still viable and is a necessary communication network for the region; even a suspension of coordination would be difficult to resurrect. SWICO's network reaches throughout 16 counties into cities, towns and villages with calls to action or sharing of resources not available to independent communities.

The board of directors will be making a concerted effort to bring on new members as well as to encourage more participation from cities and counties. But membership recruitment is also the very real work of the members. Only a local person can speak to local businesses and local governments about the value of investing in a SWICO membership.

✧ ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

January 19, 2012 is the date for the annual meeting. It will be hosted by Villisca at The Bank. There will be a buffet dinner beginning at 6 PM at a cost of \$17 per person.

The current board will present a 2012 slate of board nominees for the membership's vote. Members will finalize meeting locations and review items to include on the annual legislative agenda.

Director Debi Durham has been invited to address SWICO members and provide an update on the newly re-tooled department of economic development.

RSVP to the office via e-mail, swico@swico.org or phone at 712.309.2132 for a dinner reservation.

The Southwest Iowa Coalition is a volunteer-based, grassroots organization. The board of directors can range from five to 22 to ensure equitable representation of its membership. An executive board is comprised of the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Members work through committees to address specific issues that correspond to their experience, interest and local development needs.