

Southwest Iowa Coalition 2009 Annual Membership Report

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REGULAR BUSINESS NOTES

January 21st is the date for the Annual Meeting that will be held at the Red Coach Inn Restaurant in Red Oak. The current board will present the following 2010 slate of board nominees for the membership's vote:

- Keith Harlan, Cass County
- Russ Joyce, Cass County
- Martin Olive, Adams County

Many thanks and much appreciation to outgoing board members, Linda Washburn and Ken Pangburn. They both move back into their membership roles after a long history of leadership for the Coalition. Supervisor Joe Blankenship will continue to represent Mills County and Martin Olive will serve as the delegate for the Adams County Board of Supervisors.

2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Total Dues Paying Members 2008.....104
 Total Dues Paying Members 2009.....100
 Total Active Communications Network of more than 300

Dues paying members support the ongoing activities and communications for everyone's benefit. Participation by local representatives on a regular basis brings those benefits back home. The board extends its appreciation on behalf of the membership to local leaders who continue to use their skills at a regional level for advocacy work.

As more and more emphasis is being placed on and resources shifted to regional work, the organizational structure of the Coalition becomes even more critical in advocating for local projects. Stakeholders and investors are following the researched-based recommendations coming from rural studies which conclude that communities, counties and states (yes, states) can do more united to meet common challenges than they can individually. Members continuing to work together and through SWICO can make real differences at the local level.

As a member, you are voice at the local level that affirms the importance of SWICO regional advocacy efforts. You can remind investors of its value and strengthen its work by introducing its benefits to potential members. So, mark the dates to participate and bring some local leadership along with you!

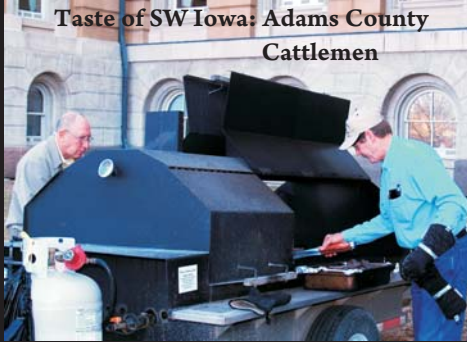
2010 Meeting & Activity Schedule

Jan. 21st	Annual Meeting	Red Coach Inn, Red Oak (1200 Senate Ave. Hwy 34)
Feb. 18th	Board and Member	location TBA
March 10th	Taste of Southwest Iowa/Legislative Day	Capitol Rotunda 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
April 15th	Board/Member	Coming: Austin Turner Leadership Award Presentation
May 20th	Board	Red Oak office
June 17th	SWICO Summit	location TBA - suggested topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-state regionalism/collaborations: benefits/ investors? • Showcasing: Collaborations in SW Iowa
July 15th	Board	Red Oak
August Break		
Sept. 16th	Regional Event Meeting	Suggested: Our Competitive Advantage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates Forum will be incorporated • Identifying & Strategizing our Regional Assets
Oct. 21st	Board and Membership	Location TBA
Nov. 18th	Board	Red Oak
December Break		

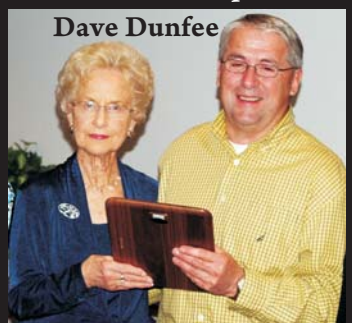
Member Meeting: Sugar Clay Winery, Fremont



Taste of SW Iowa: Adams County Cattlemen



Turner Leadership Award Dave Dunfee



August: Annual Golf Tournament



September: Annual Legislative Forum



2009

Red Oak, IA 51566
 PO 292





✧ TASTE OF SOUTHWEST IOWA - MARCH 20, 2009

On March 16th, SWICO members set up shop in the rotunda at the state capitol for the annual *Taste of Southwest Iowa*. The event was started by Coalition members as a way to showcase communities within its region and value-added ag products. Member Counties can reserve a table for displays and to provide tasty samples of food products created locally. The goal of the event is to promote the region's attractions and broaden markets for local ag producers/processors while maintaining a focus for policy-makers on the critical role value-added agriculture plays in our rural economies. SWICO legislative delegates meet throughout the day with legislative leadership and key policy-makers to discuss its annual Legislative Agenda of Priorities developed by the membership while the county displays and taste treats are available in the rotunda. It has become one of the Capitol guests and employees favorite event. Tables can be reserved now by contacting the office, and there is no charge. The rotunda has been reserved for March 10, 2010. We will serve samples and provide displays from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

✧ ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

An exceptionally hot day for the 2009 Annual Golf Tournament saw only the heartiest of our athletes on the course. Even with the sweltering temperatures soaring into the triple digits it was another successful fundraiser and social networking opportunity.

Sadly, we saw the departure of our golf tournament founder, Jason Reynolds, as he made a career move out of state. We will still have a social golf outing again this year prior to a membership at which the traveling trophy can be wrangled from the current holder, McGrath-North. We will substitute the formal tournament for two summits to encourage broader participation and information gathering due requests from the online survey.

Proceeds from the tournament were used for SWICO's general operational fund. Thanks goes to all of our sponsors and donors which made it successful:

Acorn Embroidery	Iowa Area Development Group
Akin Building Centers: Corning, Atlantic, Clarinda	McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, PC LLO
City National Bank - Shenandoah	MidAmerican Energy Corp.
Fremont Economic Development Corporation	Montgomery County Development Corp
Glenwood State Bank	Okey Vernon First National Bank
Glenwood/Mills Co Chamber of Com and Ec Dev Foundation	Page County Federal Savings Association
Great Western Bank - Bedford	Red Oak Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Great Western Bank - Red Oak	
Grundman Insurance	

✧ LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Sunbridges on the square in Glenwood served as the site for the annual Legislative Forum. Members and guests enjoyed light appetizers in the newly renovated meeting/events facility available to the local community thanks to local investment by a husband and wife team. State and Federal legislators and/or their representatives were invited to attend and visit casually during the social time prior to individual addresses from legislators. President Bill Henderson (Taylor County) then moderated a question and answer period from the audience. Thank you Senator Grassley and Representative King for sending their representatives and to Representatives Rich Anderson, Jack Drake and Greg Forristall for taking time out of their busy schedules.

Thank you to Linda Washburn, Glenwood Chamber/Mills Economic Development, for all her local coordination assistance!

✧ AUSTIN B TURNER III MEMORIAL & SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Dave Dunfee, of Cass County was presented with the Southwest Iowa Coalition's Austin B. Turner III Leadership and Memorial Scholarship Award on April 16th in Corning, Iowa for his years of dedication to regional development work. The personal

award was accompanied by a \$500 scholarship which was presented to a graduating high school senior within Dunfee's school district; a \$250 donation has been made by the Turner family to match the standing \$250 provided by the Coalition.

Dave Dunfee is a retired regional director for the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. Throughout his years with Rural Development, he was personally and professionally interactive with development individuals and organizations, including the Southwest Iowa Coalition. He was a constant source of information about services and resources that could be accessed for development projects in southwest Iowa. He was a long time member of the Coalition attending meetings and networking with development leadership. Dunfee turned to public service shortly after his retirement two years ago and was a successful candidate for a position with the Cass County Board of Supervisors. He also continues to be active with the Cass-Atlantic Development Corporation working on local and regional development projects.

Groups and individuals who participate with the Southwest Iowa Coalition are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals who emulate the regional leadership displayed by its namesake and SWICO founder, Austin Turner, which was dedication, commitment and service to his city, region and state in order to make rural Iowa a better place to live and work.

✧ 2009 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

Total Dues	16,000	Total Income.....	18,134	
Other Income.....	3,134	Total Expenses.....	19,276	
Annual Expenses:	Meetings	300	Special Events.....	500
	Memorial	250	Insurance	525
	Office.....	545	Web site.....	156
	Payroll.....	17,000		

✧ SPECIAL BOARD & Member WORK

The Coalition continues to work collaboratively with the Wallace Foundation, Grow Iowa Foundation and ISU Extension to create a sustainable managed system of entrepreneurial services which includes market place mechanisms. Time will be allotted at each of the summits for local input regarding current services and its primary focus for the future based on your grassroots needs. A focus option which will be presented and opened for discussion to members, stakeholders and investors will be product development with an emphasis on value-added agriculture.

A Brief History: Decades of regional collaborations and a natural alliance led to a logical next step for this set of partners: create a reliable, sustainable, managed system of entrepreneurial education and services to increase individual and regional economic prosperity. The programming plays on the strengths of each partner and is intended to create both collective success and greater individual organizational capacity. Planning began in 1999 with support from ISU Extension. \$750k by 2007 in funding was secured to begin The Rural Development Center. 2007 – 2009 focused on legal and programmatic roles of each partner and operational functionality. One can only comprehend a program of such breadth and depth if one takes into account the diversity and experience of its partners.

The 22-county service area was defined by the service and membership areas of the regional groups. It does not supplant what is already available locally, but can be used to fill local gaps in available programming and services. The program is costly and revenue generation streams are slow to mature. Affordable Market Place Mechanisms, expensive but critical for many of the region's smaller ventures to succeed, are in place. To date: 310 served, \$490,682 direct/facilitated business loans, 14 determining non-feasibility, 5 small business starts, and 42 sellers for Buy Iowa Online.

You can learn more by visiting www.EnterprisingIowans.com or www.BuyIowaOnline.com .

