

## Government Action Network launched to improve advocacy

The Greater Cedar Valley Alliance has launched its Government Action Network (GAN) to improve its grassroots advocacy efforts. By signing up as a member of the GAN, members and investors will be positioning themselves to aid the Alliance in getting its positions and issues across to government officials at the local, state

and national levels.

GCVA is teaming up with voterVOICE, a system that helps organizations like ours implement a smart, proactive approach to grassroots lobbying and political advocacy, overcoming the misconception that those types of activities have to be costly, difficult, and time-intensive. Using proven inter-

net-based technologies, voterVOICE can automatically match GCVA members and investors - constituents - to their public officials at the local, state, and national levels.

The Alliance believes voterVOICE will make it easier to recruit and mobilize supporters to send personalized messages to key political decision makers

at the time those communications can matter most. In as little as a minute, supporters can be informed about the issue, matched to their correct elected official(s), and guided through the message-sending process.

Supporters will be asked in an e-mail to go to the Government Action Network Advocacy Center, click on an Action Alert,

review the topic, approve the prepared message text and send the message to the public official(s) that represent them personally. No longer will supporters be asked by the Alliance to compose a message on their own and then try to figure out whom they should send it to. The GAN/voterVOICE system will do that for them.

If you have not received a post card inviting you to join the Government Action Network, you will soon. You will need to register one time at the Web site on the card, providing your name, address and e-mail address. From this information, the system will be able to identify the public officials who represent you personally here in the Cedar Valley, in Des Moines, and in Washington, DC. At any future time you are willing to participate in an information campaign on behalf of the Alliance, you log on with your e-mail and zip code. With that information, the system will take you directly to our grassroots action center.

Please become a member of the GCVA Government Action Network today. As we have said so many times before, it is the grassroots efforts of all our members and investors with governmental officials at all levels that make it possible for us to have a positive impact on the business climate and quality of life in the Cedar Valley.

For further information contact Steve Firman, 277-7540 or email- [steve@pmgrx.com](mailto:steve@pmgrx.com)

### ANNUAL CELEBRATION

*"A Winning Combination- The Success of the Cedar Valley"*

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo

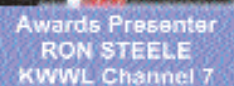
Social Hour begins @ 6:00 p.m., followed by Dinner and presentation of the Annual Awards



Entertainment by Bob and the Beachcombers  
National Band from Minneapolis  
Presenting the Best of Jimmy Buffet



Master of Ceremonies  
JIM WATERBURY  
Allon Health System



Awards Presenter  
RON STEELE  
KWWL Channel 7



Presenting Sponsor

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You are invited to attend our Annual...

**WATERLOO AND CEDAR FALLS  
LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

*Renaissance Savery Hotel*  
401 Locust, Des Moines

*Hors d'oeuvres & Cocktails*  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please RSVP to one of the Chamber Offices, 266-3593 or 233-8431, or to the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance 232-1156 by February 13th.

We encourage you to join us and help tell the great story of the Cedar Valley!

Sponsored by:



**Knowledge at Noon**

**Monday, February 18, 2008**

**Noon**

**at**

**AEA 267**

**3712 Cedar Heights Dr.**

**Cedar Falls**

**Cost- \$20**

Lunch will be provided  
To register, call 233-8431 or 266-3593  
Reservation Deadline – February 11  
Immediate Past President  
American Medical Association



**Speaker - Dr. Plested**  
Immediate Past President  
American Medical Association

Dr. Plested will address solutions to rising health care costs — policies and practical applications that small businesses and community leaders can undertake to help increase coverage for their employees while controlling overall costs. American Medical Association's emphasis builds on competition, health promotion and disease prevention. Reducing costs while increasing access is not a simple endeavor for sound bites or quick fixes — that is why the association is going to the towns and communities across Iowa and other states to dig into the details, present their ideas and learn from the attendees' experiences.

Dr. Plested will also address the health care proposals being discussed with campaigns including how to cover the nation's 45 million uninsured and reduce health care costs.

**Business Showcase**

Just a reminder ... to plan a special event or open house, a business or organization can purchase the "Business Showcase." The cost for the service is \$300. To purchase or for additional information, please contact Bette (233-8431) or Molly (266-3593).



**Business Showcase Benefits**

- Promotion in Chamber Newsletter (with logo) for one month — mailed to 6,500 business individuals.
- Promotion in Chamber EXTRA (email communication) two times
- Mailing labels — approx 1,700 names
- Ambassadors attend event — i.e. ribbon cutting
- Diplomat services — i.e. greeting and registration
- Blast Fax — one — reaches approx 700 members



Chamber members and their employees are invited to attend the quarterly Good Morning Cedar Valley on Wednesday, March 6, from 7:30-9:00 at Bridges Senior Lifestyle Living, 214 Washington Street, Waterloo. The program will include updates on city and county issues from Mayor Jon Crews, Mayor Chad Deutsch, Mayor Tim Hurley and County Board of Supervisors Chair John Miller.

**There is no cost to attend; however, reservations are required. Please RSVP by February 28 to the Chamber offices, 233-8431 or 266-3593.**

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## Ambassador groups have new presidents

Congratulations to Jan Smith, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, for being elected President of the Ambassadors of the Greater Cedar Valley Chamber-Waterloo Ambassadors, and Patty Berning, ADI-Advanced Diagnostic Imaging, for being elected President of the Cedar Falls Ambassadors and for 2008.

A special thanks to Larry Burger, Speer Financial, and Shaun Courbat, Martin Bros. Distributing, for serving as the 2007 Presidents.

Jerry Holbach, Century 21 LSB Real Estate, has received recognition as 2007 Ambassador of the Year for the Waterloo Ambassadors and Patty Berning, ADI-Advanced Diagnostic Imaging was named the Ambassador of the Year for the Cedar Falls Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors serve as the goodwill arm of the Chamber at grand openings, ribbon cuttings and conventions.



Patty Berning



Larry Burger



Shaun Corbat



Jerry Holbach



Jan Smith



**Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley**

The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley is accepting nominations February 1 through March 14 for the 2008 Mayors' Volunteer Awards and Top Teen Awards. The awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service through volunteerism in the Cedar Valley.

The Mayors' Volunteer Awards honor the exemplary contributions of individuals ages 19 and older who dedicate their time and talent to volunteerism in Cedar Falls, Waterloo and/or Evansdale.

The Mayors' Top Teen Awards honor youth ages 13-18 attending a school in Black Hawk County. The Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls & Northeast Iowa also selects one junior from each of the accredited high schools in Black Hawk County to receive the \$500 Mother Moon Service Scholarship. All nominees and recipients will be recognized at special events on May 1 at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center. Nomination forms are available online at [www.vccv.org](http://www.vccv.org) or may be requested by calling the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley at 272-2087.

The awards program is sponsored by the cities of Cedar Falls, Evansdale and Waterloo, the Greater Cedar Valley Chamber Ambassadors and the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley.

For more information, please contact Lauren Pelley, 272-2087.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Spring Golf Classic**

**June 18, 2008**

**at**

**Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course**

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available*

Contact Bette Wubbena,  
233-8431 or

[bette@greatercedarvalleychamber.com](mailto:bette@greatercedarvalleychamber.com)