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A quarterly newsletter for
Iowa ESGR's dedicated volunteers

WORKING TOGETHER - GETTING BETTER A Message from the Chairman

I believe that the businesses in Iowa that employ civilian military members are a part of the fighting force of this state and country. These businesses, small and large alike, are impacted when units are called to training and preparation. They are impacted when units respond to crisis here in the state and when deployed in overseas operations. I make no comparison of who sacrifices more: the military team members, their families, or we as employers. There is room and importance for all to sacrifice and to invest so that the optimum can be achieved in whatever focus is pursued. Together, we are working towards a common goal.

Nothing of real importance is ever done alone anymore. The more important the issue - the heightened importance for partners. **We all serve** - as civilians, military, families, veterans organizations or employers. We work to protect our freedoms and we are proud to be a part of the team.

Have you ever met or worked alongside a natural born leader? How about a "big hitter" or "a star"? It's funny, I've never ever seen a birth announcement that says: "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith a 7lb 14oz bouncing baby natural born leader" or "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones a 7 lb 14 oz natural born doctor". Sometime between the time we were born and now---we became what we are today.

We become who we are because of the people we meet, respect, work with and trust. The Iowa Committee has been purposely designed to engage you with others that you can work with, respect and trust. Additionally, as Chairperson, I'm responsible for what message I send to you, and you are responsible to do something with it. I believe that as we've worked together over the past four years, that we have all learned from each other and from the Iowans that we serve. We are better - because of our work with ESGR.

As you know, Dick Rue will be taking over chairman duties as I take a hospital administrator position in Nebraska. I'm not one for standing still, shaking hands and saying goodbye. I'd rather just reflect on the fact that we have given our very best and done some important and significant work. For that you have my sincere appreciation and gratitude. Yes, there is still work to be done. Dick Rue and Rob Kelly are tremendous volunteers as your chair and vice chair. Both have handled every facet of this assignment for me at times. You are in great hands. Don't miss "a lick" and stay your course. Our work is appreciated. Ladies and Gentlemen.... It's been a hoot!



What's Happening with Iowa ESGR

By Al Enright, Executive Director

Thanks to all the volunteers that made it to the annual training and awards conference. Also congratulations to the award winners. This past conference had some great breakout training sessions, so if you did not go, please talk to some of the members of your area that did, about what they learned.

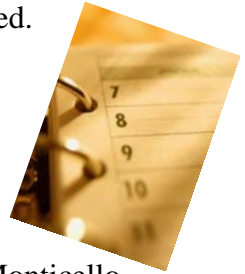
Mark your calendar for next year's conference: April 9-10 at the Sheraton Inn on University in Des Moines.

We are now in Boss Lift and Lunch and Learn season. All Boss Lifts have been filled by area chairs and they should be great events. Lunch and Learns are being set-up around the state in each ESGR area. Scheduled in August are Knoxville, Iowa Falls, Monticello, Independence and Fairfield. Scheduled in September is Council Bluffs. Dates are being worked as you read this. Check with your area chair on dates and attend one of these if you can.

Partnerships with Association of Builders and Contractors, Association of General Contractors of Iowa, Employers Council of Iowa, and the Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Association have been finalized and signed with the Iowa Committee for Guard and Reserve. Web sites have been linked with us and SOS's are starting to be signed by all members of these groups. Thanks to everyone for developing these partnerships.

Recent SOS signings for Iowa companies: Kum and Go, Manatts, Inc.

Thank you to all volunteers for the work you do for military members and employers! You are making a difference.



“Success means having the courage,
the determination, and the will
to become the person you believe
you were meant to be.”

-G. Sheehan

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

Area 1 Chair Dan Vondrak offers a great example for engaging local media in the ESGR mission. Dan asked the newspaper's publisher if the Sioux City Journal would be willing to support ESGR through the creation and donation of 1/4 page ad space.

Dan said of the publisher, "He looked at it as a way to support the troops and the local businesses in town."

Have you asked your local paper if they'd be willing to donate ad space to help recognize local employers who have received ESGR awards?

If you have questions on how to get started, contact Carol Bodensteiner, Public Relations Chair at 515-224-4582

Wells' Blue Bunny honored by Department of Defense for extraordinary support of employees who serve in the Iowa National Guard and Reserve

LE MARS, Iowa – The Iowa Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, announced Thursday that Mike Wells, CEO of Wells' Blue Bunny, was honored with an "Above and Beyond" award to recognize the extraordinary support it gives its employees who serve in the Iowa National Guard and Reserve.

According to Dan Vondrak ESGR Area 1 Chair, "The ESGR 'Above and Beyond' Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize American employers who provide extraordinary patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them, have answered their nation's call to serve. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units."

Wells' Blue Bunny joins with thousands of American Employers who have reviewed and amended their current human resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act Law (USERRA). Many employers provide "Above and Beyond" support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages, and extension of health care benefits which complement coverage provided by the military when their employees are mobilized.

Eugene Cash nominated Wells' Blue Bunny for the honor.

"I believe my company should be recognized for the support that was given to me and my family during my deployment. The company kept in contact with my family and included them in all work parties and any changes with the medical and dental programs," he said.

Vondrak praised Wells' Blue Bunny for their support of military families and being a great part of the community. Wells thanked Vondrak for the opportunity to give back to the community and Armed Services.

"We want to be doing the right things for the right reasons, and this is one of those things," Wells said. "We'll proudly display this award."

As the 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions with America's borders and beyond, ESGR will continue to be the resource for the employers of citizen warriors. ESGR provides education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.



More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil, or by calling Dan Vondrak at 712-274-1036.

PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER AWARDS



*Recipient: Bridgestone
Nominated by: Chief Petty Officer
Michael Bewley,
United States Navy
Reserve
Area: 9*

*Recipient: USDA
Nominated by: Michael Riley,
US Army Reserves
Area: 4*

*Dawn Sprouls, District Manager,
also signed a Statement of
Support.*



7 SEALS AWARD: BPI



*BPI donated Prime rib meal to local
military units. These units requested an
award be presented to them on their
behalf as a thank you for the meal.*

*At the time of the 7 Seals presentation
the Owners of the company signed state-
ments of support for all their companies
in NE, SD, TX, LA and W.S.*

PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER AWARDS



*Recipient: Humboldt County REC
Nominated by: Larry Beilke, National Guard
Area: 3*



*Recipient: Van's Locker
Nominated by: Jeff Elliott, Army National Guard
Area: 5*



*Recipient: Dickinson SWRD
Nominated by: Steven Anderson, Air National Guard
Area: 3*

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SIGNINGS

ESGR Chairman, Barry Spear participated in three new Strategic Partnership Signings. L-R: Tom Flynn, President of Iowa Ready-Mixed Concrete Association, Greg Spenner, President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc and Tony Manatt, President of AGCLA - Associated General Contractors of Iowa.



IOWA EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

BOSS LIFT

On June 5, 42 employers from across the state participated in a Boss Lift at Camp Ripley, MN. Two Boeing CH-47 helicopters transported the employers to the Minnesota military installation, where the civilians also participated in demolition demonstrations, rode in humvees and tried out Kevlar vests and helmets.

Photos courtesy of Todd Razor, Des Moines Business Record



Kate Newberg of Kelly Services Inc., Mike Helak of U.S. Bank and Brig. Gen. Janet Phipps.

Scott Bultje of Mason City-based I.C. System and Spc. Darrin Seehusen.



Mike Helak, pictured here with Brig. Gen. Janet Phipps, was presented with an ESGR State Chairman Award

CONGRATULATIONS!

ESGR was proud to recognize the following employers during our annual conference award luncheon for the exceptional support they provide to their civilian military employees. Each of these employers was first nominated by their military employee for a Patriotic Employer Award. The three Pro Patria award recipients are now under consideration for the National Freedom Award.

Pro Patria Recipients

Decker Truck Line – Fort Dodge
The Printer, Inc. – West Des Moines
Iowa State Patrol Post 14 – Ottumwa

Above & Beyond Award Recipients

Eaton Corporation – Shenandoah	Alliant Energy – Dubuque
Shaw Electric – Davenport	Marsh Affinity – West Des Moines
Hawkeye Concrete – Mediapolis	Iowa Board of Parole – Des Moines
Tri City Electric Company - Davenport	RGS Services – Grimes
Dr Pepper Snapples Group – Davenport	West Des Moines Dental Center
Eaton Corporation – Belmont	Charles City Police Department
Evergreen Packaging Inc. – Cedar Rapids	Sears – Dubuque
Heidman Law Firm – Sioux City	Wells Blue Bunny – LeMars
Mason City Police Department	Pella Corporation - Pella
Iowa Highway Patrol Post 13 – Mount Pleasant	Bettendorf Police Department

State Chair Award Recipients

GKN Offhighway Systems - Armstrong
Van Meter Industrial – Cedar Rapids
Winnebago Industries – Forest City



IOWA EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Need Assistance?

Please contact your Area Chair or State ESGR committee if you have questions or need assistance.

Area Chairs

Area 1: Dan Vondrak (712) 541-2823

Area 2: Francis Clark (712) 328-2600

Area 3: Tom Manley (712) 262-3030

Area 4: Carmine Boal (515) 964-3335

Area 5: Dr. Susan Dawson (319) 226-2014

Area 6: *vacant*

Area 7: Marty Graber (319) 372-1896

Area 8: Tom Flynn (563) 583-6494 ext 20

Area 9: Harry Cockrell (563) 324-1028

Area 10: Reggie Randau (641)-672-0143

Area 11: *vacant*

Area 12: Mark Stanton (641) 421-9563

State ESGR Committee

State Chairman (through June 21): Barry Spear (515) 964-8084

Vice Chairman: Rob Kelly (515) 490-9364

Executive Director: Al Enright (800) 294-6607, ext 4192

Deputy Director: Becky Coady (800) 294-6607, ext 2757

Office Manager/Webmaster: Doug Enright (800) 294-6607, ext 2742

State Ombudsman Director: Tom Smock (319) 822-7887

State Public Affairs Director: Carol Bodensteiner 515-224-4582

State Employer Outreach Director: Tom Meyer 515-965-8008

State Military Services Director: Dick Rue (515) 238-3931

State Training Director: Rex McClafflin (515) 556-1053

Check out the ESGR website today!

The ESGR website is full of information and resources for volunteers, service members and employers, including:

- Patriotic Employer Nomination forms
- Questions & Answers for Employers & Employees
- Register your company for a Statement of Support
- Download an Employer Resource Guide
- Volunteer Best Practices
- Articles from Iowa newspapers about ESGR

www.IowaESGR.org

Please pass this newsletter on to others who may be interested in the ESGR mission.

To subscribe to this quarterly newsletter, email Douglas.Enright@us.army.mil