

LEADERSHIP NETWORK

WWW.DMLEADERSHIPNETWORK.ORG

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MARGARET JAWORSKI
331-1861

Leadership Network Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2008

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Embassy Club

801 Grand Avenue, 40th Floor

Menu: Assorted Buffet

Cost: \$20

RSVP: <http://www.dmlleadershipnetwork.org/>
Margaret at 331-1861 by Tuesday, February 19

CARMELA BROWN, LOBBYIST, MERCY HEALTH NETWORK OF IOWA IS OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Carmela Brown is the lobbyist for Mercy Health Network of Iowa. Her responsibilities include participation in the political arena to promote social change to correct inequities and injustices in health care for the poor and the indigent. She provides a major role of representation and advocacy on behalf of the Mercy hospitals by communicating concerns regarding health care legislation and its direct effect on patients and their families.

Carmela served as vice president of Corporate Communications and Government Relations at Mercy. In that position, she managed the hospital's successful political advocacy program, monitoring governmental issues and legislation. For the past 18 years, she has been a lobbyist at the Iowa State Capitol and in Washington, D.C., where she successfully acquired federal funding for the Midwest Rural Telemedicine Consortium and the House of Mercy.

Past political activities include ten years of work in the Iowa General Assembly as assistant to the Speaker Pro Tem and the Judiciary Committee. Carmela was elected to the State Central Committee and served as treasurer of the State Democratic Party for six years. She has also served as Polk County election coordinator, co-chair of the Polk County Charter Commission that worked for reform of county government, and was a charter member of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus.

Her past civic activities include serving as a board member of the Iowa Regional Board of the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews), chair of the Urbandale Board of Adjustment; president of the Urbandale Chamber; and member of the Living History Farm's board, the AIB Board of Trustees, and a 10-year member of the State Board of Banking. Currently, she is a member of SHAZAM – Iowa Transfer System's Regional Board and the Iowa Finance Authority Board of Directors. Her main interest in this Board is the adequate provision of housing for low-income Iowans.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you all enjoyed our speaker last month. I did; as someone who moved into the Des Moines area a little over three years ago there is still a lot to learn about my new home. Pat Boddy, the Director of the Polk County Conservation, was our speaker and did an excellent job educating our group about all the great parks we have in Polk County. Education and new information is a great part of what makes our organization outstanding. Each month we have a different speaker providing us with a new subject, different perspective, and always more knowledge.

This month is no exception. Carmela Brown, a lobbyist for Mercy Health Network of Iowa, will speak to us about the health of our health care system. Our own health care as well as the system that brings us some of the best care in the world is a topic that concerns us all. The current presidential election cycle is and will be spotlighting the politicians' health care solutions. This makes Ms. Brown's presentation from the perspective of someone representing the health care providers very timely. I'm sure it will leave us with

much to think about as well as helping us make informed decisions about our future.

As we endure the rest of this winter, I would like all of our members to think of someone that could benefit from joining The Des Moines Leadership Network. Anyone joining this late into the program season will pay their \$95.00 membership dues and not owe a renewal until 2009. Yes, they will get the rest of this year free. Luncheon fees will still apply.

Please encourage people to visit our website at <http://www.dmladershipnetwork.org/> to learn more about our group and check out the list of future speakers.

Finally, I want to thank Marlina Bandurski for all of her hard work revamping our web site and Mary Ann Nielsen for arranging our great speakers. Anyone interested in getting more involved in the Leadership Network should contact one of the officers.

Sincerely,
Jim Hansen

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendar now for all of our programs through the year and plan to be there.

- **February 21:** Carmela Brown, Legislative Lobbyist
- **March 20:** David Stille, M.D., Doctors Now
- **April 17:** David Miles, Countryside Renewal Energy
- **May 15:** Martha Willits, Greater Des Moines Partnership

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

- **David Zahn, Deerfield Retirement Community**

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

If you know anyone who might like to join, encourage them to attend one of our meetings to experience the benefits for themselves. They may also contact **Executive VP of Membership**, Randy Knudtson of Iowa Realty 778-4905 to learn more about membership.

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

- February 2008 – Deb Stearns, Essman Companies
- March 2008 – Craig Maltby, Kemin Industries (*tentative*)

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