



IOWA LANDLORD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
www.iowalandlord.org

October 2008

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David Sollenbarger



From the Desk of Your Directors

Thank you to all who attended the ILA annual summertime family picnic. See details of the event on page 3 of this newsletter.

We would like to welcome Ellen Wade with the Des Moines Register as our new public relations chair. Ellen takes over for Beth McDonald. We would also like to thank Beth for her contributions to the Association, and we look forward to working with Ellen.

We have set the time and date for the annual fall educational seminar and trade show. This exciting seminar will feature both national and local speakers.

See page two of this newsletter for the details and don't forget to register early.

We are still holding monthly general membership meetings. If you have not attended a meeting in the past, now is the time to get started. Our next meeting will be Oct. 16 at Okoboji Grill in Johnston. Meetings start at 5 p.m. with a social hour followed by a short meeting with a speaker or a topic of interest to landlords and managers. We look forward to seeing you there.

Not getting your newsletter? Have a question for our "Ask the Attorney?" Don't get your e-bulletins? Call Connie at (515) 255-0675 or e-mail her at ilaservices@iowalandlord.org and let her know. We want you to stay as updated as possible with all our current events and important information.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin and Malia Mouser – Remsen, Iowa

Comes Properties – Jill Comes, Des Moines, Iowa

Marti Dowie – Indianola, Iowa



NEW VENDOR

VINES INSURANCE

I'm a multi-line, independent insurance agent. I write most lines of insurance that are available in Iowa, including homeowners; renters; dwelling (for landlords); townhouse/condo unit owners; mobile home; auto; vacant property; flood (building, contents, residential and commercial).

I also write all types of commercial, including townhouse/condo building owners; all types of life insurance, including mortgage protection term; all types of health insurance; and various other types of coverages.

Don Vines
Vines Insurance
1531-16th St.
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ILA Legislative Report

Joe Kelly
ILA Lobbyist



Property Tax Study

As many of you know, the legislature is in the midst of a two-year study of property tax reform. The goal is to find a way to lower commercial property taxes without raising property taxes on anyone else, particularly single-family homeowners. That's a daunting task, to say the least.

Also, the legislative interim committee was given the right to hire a consultant, not to exceed a price of \$150,000. The interim committee has hired a consultant, and at below cost, \$107,086. The consultant is George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

ILA FALL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR AND TRADE SHOW

Here it is! On Nov. 18, the entire top floor of the Des Moines Downtown Holiday Inn has been reserved for the the Annual Fall Educational Seminar and Trade Show.

Again, this is one of the two largest events hosted by your association. It is an all day event with registration at 8 a.m. and ending at approximately 3:30 p.m. and includes lunch and refreshments during the breaks.

Educational topics such as tips on how to fill vacancies and retain occupancy will be covered, as well as governmental compliances dealing with fair housing and lead poisoning. Our lobbyist, Joe Kelly, will give us an update on burning issues affecting rental housing to include dealing with local rental housing ordinances. Motivational topics dealing with ways to gracefully deal with managing rental housing will be covered.

One of our speakers will be Tim Norris with National Real Estate Insurance Group. Tim

Research Professor, Michael Bell, will be in charge of the study.

The contract was signed on July 23. The first progress report is due on Oct. 1. A phone conference with the interim committee is scheduled the week of Nov. 10. The final report is due on Dec. 30. Professor Bell will come to Des Moines the week of Jan. 5, 2009, to answer questions about the report from the committee members.

The legislature will begin on Monday, Jan. 12. The big questions are whether the report will be useful in solving Iowa's property tax problem and will the legislature pass a property tax reform law in 2009.

speaks to groups nationally to specifically address the unique needs of real estate investors.

The **Trade Show** features our vendor partners and their array of booths from which they will display their products and tell us about their services that aid us in our rental housing endeavors.

This seminar will again be continuing education hours for realtors.

Save the date!! Mark your calendars. Be part of an educational event complete with gifts, door prizes, awards and a chance to exchange ideas with your peers.



ILA Annual Picnic

Good food and fun was had by all who attended the ILA annual summer picnic. The weather cooperated, as usual, and members, vendors and their families all had a good time.

Thank you to the vendor partners who contributed to the day's event: Gordon Kratz with United Services who not only contributed all the soft drinks, but served as the grill master and Vacancy4rent supplied all the bottled water, as well as capturing all the festivities in pictures. Gift cards were provided by the following: Artistic Waste Services with Dairy Queen cards, and Factory Direct Appliance with an Okoboji Grill gift card.

Also, a big thank you to our members Audrene Hansen for donating a deluxe car wash gift card, and Kent and Bev Lehs for their donations.

Congratulations to all of our door prize winners: Tim and Dana Huff, Helen Rodish, Amy Moore and Doris and Scott Baskerville.

All the children present were thrilled to receive take home gifts supplied by Audrene Hansen and Dairy Queen gift cards.

We look forward to next year's event!



A sunny day provided the perfect atmosphere for the ILA annual summer picnic.



ILA Director Dennis McDonald and his wife, Corliss, enjoy a game of ladder golf with twin grandsons, Connor and Jake O'Brien.



After a good meal, members get to relax and enjoy each other's company.



As the sun sets over Raccoon River, we head home—a good time was had by all.



Safety Tips

Red Hot for Safety

The National Fire Protection Association sponsors Fire Prevention Week (annually on the Sunday through Saturday period during when National Prevention Day falls on Oct. 9) and encourages everyone to install smoke alarms. NFPA also encourages folks to use this week to set up a regular testing schedule to make sure alarms stay in good working order. It's also a good time to develop and practice family fire drills.

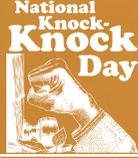


Check your smoke detector today.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Preheating season furnace checks for dangerous carbon monoxide leaks could prevent a deadly situation. Installation of carbon monoxide detectors could also warn you in advance of this dangerous hazard. Encourage your tenants to install these detectors in their apartments.

October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <p>NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH</p>		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 National Fire Prevention Day	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16 Vendor Meeting – 4 p.m. – Okoboji Grill – Johnston General Membership Meeting – 5 p.m. Okoboji Grill	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	



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