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VOTE 2008 WORKSHOP

ID Action (Iowans with Disabilities in Action) and Iowa's Developmental Disabilities Council hit the road in September and October, talking to more than 1,200 Iowans with disabilities about their voting rights. Vote 2008 Workshops were held in 20 communities around Iowa.

More than just "talk," these workshops gave Iowans with disabilities the chance to try out new voting equipment, practice voting, meet candidates on the ballot this year, and discuss voting with their county auditors.

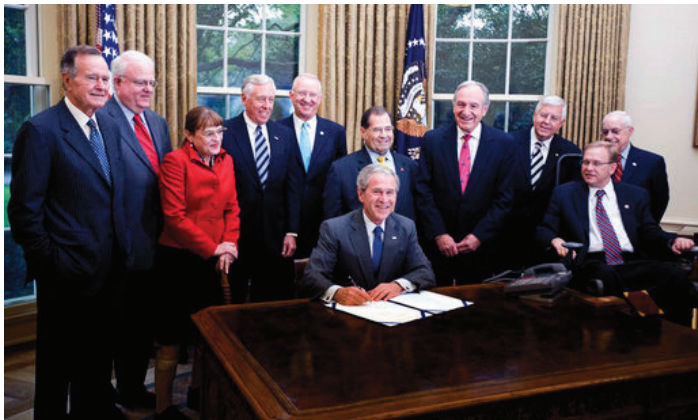


ID Action and Iowa's Developmental Disabilities Council would like to thank all of the people that made these trainings a success:

- **Secretary of State Michael Mauro and his staff**, for providing accessible materials and one of the new Automark voting machines, and participating in two of the trainings.
- **All of the county auditors and auditor staff** that made themselves available to register people, teach them how to use the voting machines, and provide one-on-one help.
- **Local hosts** who stepped up as organizers, got the word out, invited candidates, and handled all the little details. These workshops were driven by the "grassroots." You asked; we came.
- **The people who participated in the workshops**, because without you, we'd be talking to ourselves! Local hosts made these workshops possible; you made them a resounding success.

PRESIDENT SIGNS HISTORIC ADA AMENDMENTS ACT

On September 25, President George W. Bush signed into law the historic Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 (S. 3406). It will take effect on January 1, 2009.



President George W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008, in the Oval Office of the White House.

Since the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) 18 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court has narrowed the ADA's coverage and excluded many individuals with disabilities from its protection. The ADAAA reinstates the original Congressional intent of the ADA by extending protections to individuals who use hearing aids, prosthetic limbs or take medication to treat disabilities.

The ADAAA classifies any condition that limits a major life activity as a disability regardless of whether or not it is treatable with medication or technology. The Act also updates the definition of a major life activity to include conditions that limit bodily function such as that of the immune system, circulatory system or the brain. The ADAAA also states that the ADA is to be interpreted broadly to protect anyone who is discriminated against on the basis of a disability.

Congress passed the ADAAA with overwhelming bipartisan support. The Senate passed it with unanimous consent (no roll call vote, but no Senators objected to its passage). The House passed it by voice vote (no roll call), but did adopt a similar bill earlier in the summer with nearly unanimous support (402-17).

Advocates hope the passage of the ADAAA will reduce discrimination against people with disabilities, and lead to a more just resolution of disability-discrimination cases.

Iowa's Senator Tom Harkin, the original sponsor of the ADA, was also the lead sponsor of the ADAAA. Four other members of Iowa's Congressional delegation were co-sponsors: Sen. Charles Grassley, Rep. Bruce Braley, Rep. Leonard Boswell, and Rep. David Loebsack.

For more about the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that led up to this legislation: National Council on Disabilities 2004 Report, *Righting the ADA*, www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2004/righting_ada.htm.

To view the legislation as signed into law or a summary of the legislation: <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/thomas> (S.3406)

ELECTION RESULTS

The historic 2008 election is now over – and those that we elected now must move on to the very tough job of running our government.

It won't be easy, with the country at war, the economy in the dumps, Iowans still trying to recover from this summer's devastating weather and floods, and the state's budget crisis (we spent more money than we have).

Democrats Expand Their Majorities

- ☆ Democrats now control the Presidency and both chambers of the US Congress.
- ☆ In Iowa, Democrats continue to control the Governor's Office and both parts of the Iowa Legislature (Iowa House and Iowa Senate).
- ☆ Democrats added three seats to their majority in the Iowa House of Representatives (they now have 56 members). House Republicans have 44 members.
- ☆ Democrats in the Iowa Senate added two seats to their majority – they now have 32 members. There are now 18 Senate Republicans.
- ☆ One Senate seat is still in question. A recount has been requested and will be finalized before the end of the month. Sen. Jeff Danielson, a Cedar Falls/Waterloo fire fighter, was losing on election night by more than 30 votes. He ended up winning by 14 votes after absentee ballots were counted and provisional ballots were verified. His opponent, Walt Rogers, has requested a recount.
- ☆ **Don't think your vote counts?** Think again! In addition to Sen. Danielson's race, there were a lot of very close votes this year:
 - Rep. Wes Whitehead of Sioux City won by only 6 votes!
 - Rep. Dolores Mertz of Algona won by 42 votes.
 - Rep. Art Staed of Cedar Rapids lost by 47 votes.

- The race for US Senate in Minnesota is still up for grabs - right now only 174 votes separates U.S. Senator Norm Coleman and comedian Al Franken. That's 174 votes out of the 2.9 million votes cast in that race!

Take Me To Your Leader

Legislators wasted no time picking their leaders. Democrats will return with their same leaders:

- ☆ [Senate President Jack Kibbie](#) (Emmetsburg)
- ☆ [Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal](#) (Council Bluffs)
- ☆ [Speaker of the House Pat Murphy](#) (Dubuque)
- ☆ [House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy](#) (Des Moines)

After seeing their numbers in the House and Senate decline over the past three election cycles, Republicans in the House and Senate decided to change direction and selected new leaders:

- ☆ [Senate Minority Leader Paul McKinley](#) (Chariton)
- ☆ [House Minority Leader Kraig Paulsen](#) (Marion)

The two previous leaders, Sen. Ron Wieck and Rep. Christopher Rants (both of Sioux City), will continue to serve in the Legislature but will no longer be in leadership.

NEW FACES IN IOWA LEGISLATURE

There are 9 new members of the Iowa Senate and 18 new members of the Iowa House. Two of the new Senate members moved over from the Iowa House – Senator-Elect Pam Jochum of Dubuque and Senator-Elect Swati Dandekar of Marion.

- ☆ Seven legislators lost their re-elections:
 - Sen. Frank Wood (D-Eldridge)
 - Sen. Mark Zieman (R-Postville)
 - Rep. Mark Davitt (D-Indianola)
 - Rep. Dan Rasmussen (R-Independence)
 - Rep. Art Staed (D-Cedar Rapids)
 - Rep. Jamie Van Fossen (R-Davenport)
 - Rep. Tami Wiencek (R-Cedar Falls)

- ☆ Democrats won two open seats previously held by Republicans in the Iowa Senate.
- ☆ Democrats won three open seats previously held by Republicans in the House of Representatives; Republicans won one open seat previously held by a Democrat.

There are 25 new faces in the Iowa Legislature (plus the 2 new Senators leaving House seats). We thought you might want to read up on them. *The following information came from candidate books put together by the Iowa Democratic Party and the Republican Party of Iowa.*

New Faces in the Iowa Senate



Randy Feenstra (R-District 2)

Randy Feenstra is serving his first term as the Sioux County Treasurer. He received his BS degree from Dordt College and a master's degree in Public Administration from Iowa State

University. He was the sales manager for the Foreign Candy Company for seven years and then served as the City Administrator for Hull for seven years until the fall of 2006 when he was elected as County Treasurer. He currently serves as the chairman of the Sioux County Foundation, and is on many other boards including, Sioux Center executive hospital board and the Lewis & Clark regional Water executive board. He also spent 14 years as an EMT for the City of Hull. Randy and his wife Lynette have four children. Senate District 2 is comprised of Plymouth, Sioux, and Lyon Counties and was previously represented by retiring Sen. David Mulder.



Merlin Bartz (R-District 6)

Merlin Bartz served in the Iowa Legislature for 12 years before accepting a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2002. He was first elected to the House in 1990 and moved to the Senate two years later. He resigned his

Senate seat in 2002 to become a natural resources and environment special assistant at the USDA. In July 2004, he became a regional assistant chief for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. District 6, which covers all of Winnebago, Worth, Hancock and Franklin counties and a part of Cerro Gordo County. He fills the seat vacated by retiring Sen. Thurman Gaskill.

Mary Jo Wilhelm (D-District 8)



Wilhelm defeated incumbent Senator Mark Zieman. She will represent portions of Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, and Chickasaw Counties. She is currently a Howard County Supervisor and is a self-employed Certified Residential Appraiser, a business she started in 2006 after spending seven years as a realtor. She is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Pam Jochum (D-District 14)

Hardly a newcomer, Senator-Elect Pam Jochum served nine terms (18 years!) in the Iowa House before making the decision this year to run for the Senate. She was born in Dubuque and worked at Loras College for seven years, where she worked her way up to Director of Public Information and Marketing. She served on the Board of Directors for the Dubuque Area ARC, was Chair of the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, CROP Walk, and helped with fundraising efforts for the Albrecht Acres, a camp for children and adults with disabilities. She received the "Public Service Award" from the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and an award from the Heart Association for her work on anti-tobacco legislation. She and her daughter attend Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



Swati Dandekar (D-District 18)

Not a new face to those in her district (Marion/Cedar Rapids), Swati Dandekar served three terms in the Iowa House before deciding to move to the Senate this year. She was born in Nagpur, India and graduated from Nagpur University in 1971 with a Bachelor's degree in

Chemistry and Biology. She and her husband Arvind have two sons, both Stanford University graduates (one is in his medical residency in Seattle; the other is a strategic planner for Google). Senator-Elect Dandekar served on the Vision Iowa Board until 2002.

Tim Kupucian (R-District 20)

Kupucian won the open seat vacated by retiring Sen. John Putney, which covers Benton and Grundy counties, as well as parts of Tama and Iowa counties. He has been a farmer and livestock producer for 27 years, with a B.S. in animal science from Iowa State University. He is a past president of the Iowa



Pork Producers and served three years on the Agriculture Advisory Board to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.



Steve Soddors (D-District 22)

Steve Soddors will represent Marshall & Hardin Counties, replacing retiring Senator Larry McKibben. Soddors is a Marshall County Deputy Sheriff and has been in law enforcement for 20 years. He was a detective with the Mid Iowa Drug Task Force, where he received the US Attorney Office's Law

Enforcement Coordinating Committee Award for breaking up one of the largest drug cartels in Iowa. He is active with the YMCA, is a board member of Youth Shelter Services and Iowa Rivers Red Cross, and is a member of the Iowa Teamsters Law Enforcement League. In 2005, he served as President of the Iowa DARE Association. In his spare time, he coaches soccer and wrestling for middle school students. His wife Carrie works as an Early Head Start Education Services Coordinator for Mid-Iowa Community Action in Marshalltown. They have two children, ages 13 and 10, and attend church at Hope Methodist.

Shawn Hamerlinck (R-District 42)

Shawn Hamerlinck is a two-term Davenport Alderman (city council). He works as a Youth Field Specialist in the Iowa State University Scott County Extension Office where he develops youth programming and oversees programs like 4-H. He is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at Augustana College and Black Hawk College. He defeated Sen. Frank Wood, who currently holds this seat. He and his wife Melissa (an audiologist at ENT Professional Services) live in West Davenport with their two sons (age 4 and 1). He was raised in West Davenport on the Ka-Sha-Ka Farm and received a Bachelors Degree from Loras College and a Masters Degree from Loyola University in Chicago.



Kim Reynolds (R-District 48)

Kim Reynolds is serving her fourth term as the Clarke County Treasurer and resides in Osceola with her husband Kevin. She was elected president of the Iowa State County Treasurer's Association in 2000. She served on the Iowa Public Employees

Retirement System (IPERS) board from 1996 to 2001. She will be taking the seat held currently by Sen. Jeff Angelo, who is retiring.

New Faces in the Iowa House of Representatives



Sharon Steckman (D-District 13)

Sharon Steckman won the race for this open seat, vacated by retiring Rep. Bill Schickel. Steckman was born in Chicago and grew up in Arizona, Colorado and Nebraska. She moved to Mason City in 1976, and raised to boys, served on the board of the Mason City Swim Club and Mason City Youth Hockey Association, and parented her granddaughter for 5 ½ years. While raising her sons, she went back to school at Iowa State University and graduated with honors. Sharon worked for the Mason City Community School District, taught 2nd, 4th and 6th grades, and was a Title 1 reading specialist. She earned a master's degree in Education at Morningside College. She spent a summer in Yellowstone National Park working for the U.S. Park Service, accepted overseas teaching assignments in Portugal, worked with children from 19 different countries, and was a RAGBRAI participant for six years. She was a member of the Marion Planning & Zoning Commission and was President of the Mason City Education Association and later served as its chief negotiator. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and helps with the Trinity God Squad. She has nine grandchildren and enjoys golfing, gardening, hiking and traveling in her spare time.



John Beard (D-District 16)

John Beard ran unsuccessfully for the Iowa Senate in 2004, but decided to run this year for the open House seat left by retiring Rep. Chuck Gipp. He and his wife (a teacher in Decorah schools) live on a farm next to his brother, who is a full-time organic dairy/beef producer on his family's century farm. He has lived in many places across the United States, graduating from Kent School in Kent, Conn., and attending college at the University of Miami in Florida and Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. He worked on a green turtle farm on Grand Cayman Island, worked as a part-time farrier and built water towers nationwide. For the last 27 years, John has operated J.W. Beard Welding and Machine in Decorah. John helped start local Pheasants Forever and Trout Unlimited chapters, and serves on the County Conservation Board.

**Kerry Burt (D-District 21)**

Kerry Burt was born and raised in Waterloo, and graduated from West High School, where he played football and basketball and was awarded an athletic scholarship to the University of Iowa in 1983. While at the University of Iowa, he became an All American on the Hawkeye football team and was named an All Conference selection and team captain. Academically, he posted a solid performance in the classroom, graduating in four years with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. He later completed his master's degree in higher education at the University of Iowa in 1990. Burt is a Waterloo firefighter and also owns Kerry Burt Financial, which includes investments, home mortgages and insurance. He is a personal financial analyst, licensed in securities and insurance, and he is home/mortgage/loan certified. He is also a fill-in TV announcer for Gateway Conference football games. In addition to his duties with the fire department, he is an emergency medical technician and an instructor for the Hazardous Materials Regional Training Center. He was also involved in the Fire PALS program and is a child-safety seat installation technician. Burt was a co-founder of and volunteer for The Black Alliance, an organization that targeted and addressed issues for young black men in the Cedar Valley community. He served as the Cub Scout master for Pack 56 and currently volunteers for the Boys & Girls Club. He also is an assistant football coach at West High School. He has a son and daughter.

**Gene Ficken (D-District 23)**

Gene Ficken is a retired teacher and coach and a longtime Independence community leader. He defeated incumbent Rep. Dan Rasmussen. He was born and raised on a farm near Spirit Lake, attended Iowa Lakes Community College, finished his

bachelor's degree in science and master's degree in biology from UNI, and did postgraduate work in biotechnology at ISU. He was a high school biology teacher for Independence Community Schools for 33 years, until his retirement in 1999. During his time at Independence High School, he sponsored the National Honor Society and helped organize, develop and implement the girls' athletic program. He served as the sophomore girls' basketball coach for 12 years, head softball coach for 16 years and head track and field coach for 34 years. Gene was a member of the Independence Teachers Association, where he served as vice president and president. In his community, he served as a coach for youth sports in football,

basketball and baseball/softball. He also coached AAU basketball for boys and girls and was an active member of the local Jaycees and Kiwanis. His wife is a registered nurse at the Mental Health Institute in Independence, where she works in the Cromwell Children's Unit. She is a member of the Iowa Nurses Association and AFSCME, and has been a board member of the Buchanan County Health Trust. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence, where he has been a member of the church council and has served as congregational president. They were actively involved with the World Wide Marriage Encounter for many years. Gene is presently a part-time employee at Reiff Funeral Home in Independence. In his free time, Gene enjoys building scale model Oliver tractors and implements, riding bikes and going to Hawkeye games.

Chuck Isenhardt (D-District 27)

Chuck Isenhardt was born in Dubuque, and will represent the city in the seat vacated by Rep. Pam Jochum, who was elected to the Iowa Senate this year. He attended Wahlert High School, graduated from Loras College in 1981 with a degree in political science and mass communication, and received a master's degree in journalism from Marquette University in 1984. He owns his own small business, Common Good Services, which offers communications, public relations, training and education, strategic planning and other organizational services. From 1990 to 2007, he was executive director of the Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council, which included work in labor relations, health care (Tri-State Health C.A.R.E. Coalition and Iowa Health Buyers Alliance), construction (Alliance for Construction Excellence) and education/workforce development (Communities and Schools Together). From 1986 to 1990, he was a freelance writer and publisher, working on the topics of education, health care, rural development, labor relations and other social and economic issues. He was a member of the National Writers Union, which he rejoined this year after starting his own business (UAW Local 1981). Previous to that, he was a reporter and editor for the Witness newspaper of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. He has also been a research assistant for the Institute for the Catholic Media, an instructor at Marquette University, and worked for Interstate Power Company, the city of Dubuque (park maintenance), the Telegraph Herald (sports department) and the Iowa Oil Company (gas station attendant). His past or current professional activities include the Labor and Employment Relations Association, National Business



Coalition on Health (Government Affairs Committee), Iowa 2010 Strategic Planning Council (Development Committee), Iowans for a Better Future Board of Directors, the Governor's 21st Century Workforce Council and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Customer Council. In the community, he has been a member of the Dubuque Housing Commission, Dubuque Community Development Commission, Dubuque County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Stakeholders Committee, Dubuque Soccer Club (co-founder), American Youth Soccer Organization (commissioner), America's River Soccer Classic (director), Dubuque Housing Coalition (chair), Healthy Dubuque 2000, Crescent Community Health Center Planning Committee, Downtown Neighborhood Council (block captain) and St. Raphael Cathedral Parish. He has been on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity, Project Concern, the Dubuque Food Pantry and the Dubuque Soccer Alliance. In his spare time, he enjoys officiating soccer and basketball games, playing hockey, hiking, biking, and traveling.



Nate Willems (D-District 29)

Nate Willems was born and raised in Anamosa, graduated from Anamosa High School in 1997, received his B.S.F.S. in international politics from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 2001, and got his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2007. He has

worked on a variety of Democratic campaigns during and after college (Congressman Leonard Boswell's re-election campaign, and the Congressional campaigns of John Norris and Dr. Julie Thomas). He also served as legislative clerk for Rep. Ro Foege and was a regional director for Howard Dean's Presidential campaign. He spent a summer working in the law office of Jim Larew (now the Governor's Policy Director) and one summer in the legal department of IUOE Local 49. He is now a self-employed attorney at Sole, McManus, Pearson & Willems, P.C., practicing primarily in the areas of labor and employment law. He is active in the Lincoln Highway Lisbon Lions Club and the Mount Vernon Athletic Boosters. He and his wife (a social studies teacher and volleyball/track coach at Mt. Vernon High School) have one daughter. They are members of First Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon and live in Lisbon. Retiring Rep. Ro Foege currently represents this district.

Nick Wagner (R-District 36)

Nick Wagner is currently an account manager and Project Engineer for ESCO group in Marion, Iowa, and just completed



a term as an at-large Marion City Council Member. He will now represent this Linn County district currently held by Rep. Swati Dandekar, who was just elected to the Iowa Senate. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa (1996 – BS in biomedical engineering; 1998 - MS in electrical engineering). As a city councilperson, he served on the Highway 151 Economic Development Committee, Mayoral Youth Advisory Council, Zoning Ordinance Review Committee, Brownfield Steering Committee, Solid Waste Mediation Committee, and Priority Advisories Committee. He and his wife have two children.

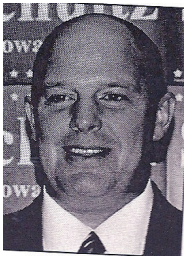
Renee Schulte (R-District 37)

Renee Schulte will represent this Linn County district after beating incumbent Rep. Art Staed. She is an adjunct professor in psychology at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling and educational psychology from New Mexico State University. She serves on several boards focused on helping women and families, and has been a licensed foster parent and family therapist for Four Oaks. She is a member of the Professional Women's Network and operates her own Mary Kay business. She and her husband (a discipleship minister) attend Antioch Christian Church.



Annette Sweeney (R-District 44)

Buckeye native Annette Sweeney will represent Hardin and Marshall counties, filling a seat that was left open when Rep. Polly Granzow retires this year. Sweeney is active in church, 4H, sports, drama and speech in her community and at Radcliffe High School. She received a BA in English speech/drama with a minor in coaching at Concordia College LCMS in Seward, Nebraska. She taught middle school English in Peoria, Illinois, but decided to return home after the untimely death of her father in 1983 to take over the family's 1350-acre row crop and purebred cow/calf operation. Annette spent three years as the Executive Director of the Iowa Angus Association and started a small database mailing and publishing business (Practical Promotions employing three local women and marketing to purebred cattle producers). She is also a speaker and entertainer at local Christian women's groups and agricultural youth conferences and volunteers for the Ellsworth Community Ag Advisory Council, Hardin County Agricultural Extension, and Iowa Women in Agriculture Board. She is an organist for two local church congregations, and a vocalist at weddings and funerals.

**Jason Schultz (R-District 55)**

Jason Schultz will represent the seat currently held by retiring Rep. Clarence Hoffman. He is an insurance adjuster at Farmers Mutual Insurance Association in Schleswig; continues to farm with his father (as

they have done the last 13 years); was a volunteer firefighter for 11 years for the Schleswig Volunteer Fire Department; served in the Iowa National Guard for 7 years; and was a member of the Horn Memorial Hospital Foundation. He and his wife have two daughters and attend Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig, where he serves as the congregation's Vice President and a Sunday School Superintendent. They have also owned Saturday Nite Clothing in Denison for the past nine years.

Chris Hagenow (R-District 59)

Chris Hagenow of Windsor Heights will take over the seat left by retiring Rep. Dan Clute. He was raised in Cedar Falls, is a fifth-generation Iowan, graduated from UNI with honors (1994), and earned his J.D.

at the University of Iowa College of Law (1997). He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. He has practiced law in Waterloo and Des Moines, and worked for five years as a Manager for American Airlines at the Des Moines International Airport. Since 2004, he has worked for *c wenger group* in Urbandale as a project manager and data analyst.

**Peter Cownie (R-District 60)**

Des Moines native Peter Cownie will take over the seat currently held by Rep. Libby Jacobs, who is retiring at the end of this year. He is a graduate of St. Augustin School, Dowling High School, and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. After graduating from college, he worked in Washington D.C. for then Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Upon returning to Iowa, he worked at the State Capitol for the Senate Republican Caucus Staff, serving as a legislative analyst for the State Government and Health/Human Services Budget Committees. He has been working on his Masters in Public Administration from Drake University, with an emphasis in Public Policy (and is scheduled to graduate this year). He is now President of Junior Achievement of Central Iowa, teaching K-12 students the merits of starting their own businesses, financial literacy, savings and overall economics. He also serves on the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation while also volunteering for the Boys & Girls Club, Variety Club of

Central Iowa, and the Bull Moose Club. He is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and married his high school sweetheart this summer.

Erik Helland (R-District 69)

Erik Helland is a life-long resident of this northwest suburban Des Moines district, which includes Grimes, Johnston, Polk City, and Saylorville. Rep. Walt Tomenga, who is retiring from office, currently represents the district. Helland is a Drake University graduate, and is currently finishing his law degree there. He attended high school in Ballard. He helps out on the family farm, employed by transportation companies and Iowa horse breeders, and worked on presidential and statehouse campaigns. He and his wife have a daughter and are members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Grimes.

**Kevin Koester (R-District 70)**

Kevin Koester of Ankeny will replace Rep. Carmine Boal, who is retiring this year. Koester has served as the Ankeny School's Director of Community Education since 1979, has served as President of the national and state associations of community education, and served on the boards of Iowa Dollars for Scholars, Ankeny School District Foundation, Ankeny Substance Abuse Project, YMCA, United Way, Employee and Family Resources, and Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. He is a University of Iowa alumnus. He and his wife (a psychology professor at DMACC) have three grown children, one of whom has a disability and attends ISU.

**Kent Sorenson (R-District 74)**

Kent Sorenson defeated incumbent Rep. Mark Davitt to represent Warren County in the Iowa House. He is the owner of Pro-Kleen, a building maintenance company. He is an Indianola High School graduate, is a member of Destiny Bible Church, is past-president of the Indianola Soccer Tribe, and is a soccer coach and volunteer firefighter. He is an avid bow hunter. He and his wife have six children.

**Phyllis Thede (D-District 81)**

Bettendorf native Phyllis Thede defeated incumbent Rep. Jamie Van Fossen to represent Davenport in the Iowa House. She and her husband have three daughters. Born in Chicago, she went to school in Creston at Southwestern Community College and at Westmar College. She was a para-educator with the Davenport Community Schools and is

currently a secretary in the Media Center at North High School. She has served as union president, vice president, and contract negotiator and grievance chair. She served on the state Minority Action Committee for 10 years.

Larry Marek (D-District 89)

Larry Marek is a farmer who lives outside of Riverside on his family's century farm. He is currently the District 9 Director of the Iowa Soybean Association (and was previously the state executive committee secretary); is a former county soil commissioner and a current assistant soil commissioner; and is a member of the Pork Producers of Iowa, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, the Iowa Corn Growers Association and the Washington County Farm Bureau. A lifelong supporter of 4-H and its foundation, he has received various awards in his service to agriculture: Master Pork Producer, Meritorious Service to 4-H and Iowa 4-H Foundation Recognition. He also received the Farm Family of the Year award in Washington County. He has served for more than 20 years on the Washington County Fair Board and has held several offices on the board, including president. He was also director of his local bank for 11 years; served on various county committees, including FMHA, FSA, County Compensation Board and Extension Council; and is currently serving on the Washington County Riverboat Foundation, which is in charge of awarding grants from the Riverside Resort and Casino. He attended Iowa State University in a two-year farm operations program and served his country for 8 ½ years in the National Guard. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Riverside and served as the parish's president and as a trustee, member of the finance counsel and lectern. He and his wife have three sons, one daughter and 10 grandchildren. He is taking the seat of retiring Rep. Sandy Greiner.



have two sons and seven grandchildren. Kearns is a member of the American Legion, Elks Club, and University of Iowa Labor Advisory Board. He is a delegate to the Lee County Labor Council; was appointed to the Vision Iowa Board by Governor Tom Vilsack; was co-chair of the Lee County Labor-Management Committee and served on the Lee County Jail Expansion Committee. He is a member of Keokuk Trinity United Methodist Church, and volunteers for the Salvation Army Christmas Campaign, and AFL-CIO Community Services.

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *infoNET* will come out the first week of session, just before the Legislature reconvenes on January 12, 2009. Here's a peek at what will be in it:

- ✓ Contact information for all legislators
- ✓ 2009 Session Preview (what to expect)
- ✓ December State Revenue Forecast (how much legislators get to spend this year – or cut, as the case may be!)
- ✓ Tips in talking to your legislators



Jerry Kearns (D-District 92)

Jerry Kearns, who is replacing retiring Rep. Phil Wise, is a staff representative for the United Steelworkers International Union and was employed for 38 years by Metzeler Automotive (formerly Sheller-Globe) in Keokuk as an industrial electrician. He served as President of the local union at his facility for 18 years. He is a graduate of Wyaconda High School (Missouri), attended Southeastern Community College, and graduated from a four-year electrician apprenticeship. He served in the US Air Force from 1965-1969. His wife is the Director of Health Information at Keokuk Area Hospital; they



Reminder!

The names of your *State Senator* and *State Representative* are printed on your mailing label.

These are the people that represent you at the State Capitol in Des Moines, and are the people you should call for help in changing Iowa's laws and policies.

We are not able to identify the names of your legislators if you use a PO Box. If you would like us to include the names of your legislators, please send us your street address.

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infoNET is a free publication of Iowa's Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and ID Action, and is written and produced by Amy Campbell & Craig Patterson of Campbell/Patterson Consulting LLP.

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