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SURVEY SAYS...

It's survey time again! Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey, and let us know what you think about *infoNET* – and how we can make it better!

Just follow these three easy steps to make sure *infoNET* helps you get the information you need, when you need it:

1. Fill out the enclosed survey.
2. Mail it in the envelope included (you do **not** need postage!).
3. Drop it in the mail.
4. If you included your name and address, you will automatically be added to our drawing for one of three \$30 gift cards!

You can also fill the survey out online at:
www.infonetiowa.com.

Flood Recovery Tops 2009 Issues

Nearly all of Iowa has been declared a disaster area (86 of the state's 99 counties). This summer's storms, tornadoes and floods have taken a toll on the state.

Helping Iowans and their towns recover from this damage is looking like it will be the number one priority of legislators and the Governor – beginning this fall with a Special Session (most likely in September) and again when the regular session starts up again on January 9, 2009.

What will legislators and the Governor do to help the recovery efforts? The Governor has already taken the first step – appointing 15 people to a new Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC).

The Commission, which met for the first time on July 17, has been asked to do all of the following:

- Figure out how badly the state was impacted (people, schools, businesses, public and private infrastructure) and recommend the first steps legislators and the Governor can take to assist in recovery. This is to be done in 45 days.
- Develop a plan to rebuild a safer, stronger, and better Iowa. The Commission is to reach out to people from all walks of life to figure out how to do this.

- Advise on the state's ongoing recovery efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

The Commission has created nine task forces focused on specific areas that will develop more detailed recommendations to support the recovery and rebuilding process. Membership to these task forces will be announced soon. They will address the following areas:

- Housing
- Flood Plain Management & Hazard Mitigation
- Infrastructure & Transportation
- Economic & Workforce Development
- Cultural Heritage & Records Retention
- Public Health & Health Care
- Long-Term Recovery Planning
- Agriculture & Environment
- Education

The Governor has also created a new Rebuild Iowa Office to coordinate flood/storm damage recovery and be the clearinghouse for recovery information. The Governor has named Lt. Governor Patty Judge to head the office. The office will:

- Coordinate state agency responses.
- Get the most out of federal assistance.
- Make sure state and federal recovery resources are delivered efficiently.
- Make sure resources are being used smartly.
- Support the work of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission.

You can keep tabs on the commission's work online at: www.flood2008.iowa.gov. The Commission is chaired by General Ron Dardis, the head of the Iowa National Guard.

Meet the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Members:

Bill Bywater of Iowa City is the President of Economy Advertising/TruArt Color Graphics.

Jim Davis of Charles City is the owner of Iowa Title in Charles City and currently serves on the state Small Business Advisory Council.

Michael Earley of Des Moines is President and Chief Executive Officer of Bankers Trust.

Jim Fausett of Coralville is President of the Iowa League of Cities. He has served as the Mayor of Coralville since 1996. (Upon completion of his term as president of the League of Cities, Fausett will be succeeded by the incoming President, Mayor Tim Hurley (R) of Waterloo, who has been invited to begin participating in the commission's meetings as an *ex officio* member.)

Bill Gerhard of Iowa City serves as president of the Iowa State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Karris Golden of Waterloo is assistant director of communication and marketing for Wartburg College in Waverly, and is a member of the Generation Iowa Commission.

Brent Halling of Perry served as Deputy Secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship from 1999 to 2007, and has been a grain and livestock family farmer.

Mike King of Creston is President of the Iowa State Association of Counties. He is currently the chair of the Union County Board of Supervisors. (Upon completion of his term as president of ISAC, King will be succeeded by the incoming president, Sherriff Gary Anderson (R) of Appanoose County, who has been invited to begin participating in the commission's meetings as an *ex officio* member.)

Linda Larkin of Fort Madison is currently vice president of operations for Agemark Assisted Living.

Nitza Lopez-Castillo of Columbus Junction currently serves as the Assistant Director of Community Development for Louisa County.

Carroll Reasoner of Cedar Rapids is an attorney for Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P. L. C. She is a former president of the U of I Foundation and longtime Cedar Rapids civic leader.

Amy Truax of Parkersburg is the co-owner of a family-operated insurance agency.

Mark Wandro of Des Moines currently serves as Executive Vice President for Snyder and Associates in Ankeny, and previously served as director of the Iowa Department of Transportation from 1999 to 2005.

Beverly Wharton of Sioux City is the President of Briar Cliff University.

DHS COUNCIL HEARS CONCERNS

Every year, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Council holds a public hearing to help them decide where limited funding should go in the next year.

Linda Hinton of the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) urged the Council to forward the concerns of counties onto the Governor. Hinton said the counties where severe flooding occurred have lost much of their tax base, and therefore will be further strapped for MH/MR/DD cash.

Juvenile Court Judges also appeared before the Council to ask for additional funding to reduce the children's mental health waiver waiting list. The children's mental health waiver allows children with serious mental illnesses to be served in their own homes.

CAMPAIGN SEASON BEGINS

The campaign season is not quite in full swing, but candidates are definitely gearing up for the election on November 4!

ID Action and *infoNET* want to help you find the election information you want, when you need it. Here are some ways we can help:

- **ID Action Vote 2008 Grants** are now available. Find out more at: www.idaction.org/idaction/vote_2008.htm or by calling 866/432-2846.
- **ID Action Advocacy University is offering FREE election workshops** around the state during September and October. Tentative sites include:
 - Burlington
 - Carroll
 - Cherokee/Sheldon/Spencer
 - Council Bluffs
 - Davenport
 - Des Moines
 - Iowa City
 - Mason City
 - Ottumwa
 - Waterloo

For more information on the election workshops, to sign up to attend a workshop, or to schedule a workshop in your community, visit us at www.idaction.org/idaction/vote_2008.htm or call 866/432-2846.

- **Find out who is running for Congress or the Legislature in your area**, how to contact them, where your polling place is located, how to register to vote, and just about everything you want to know about the November 4 election at: www.infonetowa.com/advocate/campaigns_and_voting.php

Mark Your Calendars!

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| Nov. 4, 2008 | VOTE! |
| Jan. 9, 2009 | 2009 Session Begins |
| April 1, 2009 | Advocating Change Day |

ADVOCATE'S SUMMER CHECKLIST

- Apply to be a 2009 ID Action Lobbyist Apprentice at:
www.infonetiowa.com/advocate/lobbyist.php
- Volunteer for a local candidate for school board, city council, board of supervisors, or legislature.
- Volunteer for a Presidential or Congressional campaign.
- Volunteer to help a political party.
- Write a letter to the editor about an issue you care about. For tips visit www.infonetiowa.com/advocate.
- Call in to a radio talk show and talk about an issue.
- Attend (or host) a voter workshop.
- Apply for an ID Action Vote 2008 Grant and organize your own Get Out the Vote effort.
- Stop in and see us at the Fair - ID Action Day is August 7 and Building Bridges Day is August 15!
- Introduce yourself to the legislative candidates in your area.
- Find out how your local candidates feel about an issue you care about.
- Be creative! Think of something fun to raise awareness on issues you care about.

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A project of the Governor's DD Council & ID Action

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