



March/April 2008

Annual Meeting is March 27

I hope by now you have received your invitation to join us on Thursday, March 27 for our Annual Meeting. It is being held at the Q Kindness Café in the Lowry Building in St. Paul. Doors open at 6:30pm. Our meeting/presentation will start at 7. Our goal is to keep the presentation under 30 minutes. When the presentation is over, we will have time for socializing and networking. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know your new and continuing Board Members as well as the other businesses in our organization. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

We encourage you to bring potential new members with to the meeting so they can see what we are all about. For each potential member you bring, your name will be entered into a drawing for fun prizes that will be given out that evening. In addition, if you renew your membership before the annual meeting, your name will go into the drawing as well.

We are asking for each person attending for \$10 (\$20 at the door) to help cover costs. Parking in the Lawson Ramp is included in that cost. You can make your payment online through Paypal at our website or you can send a check (address is on the last page of this newsletter.)

A Parting Word from our Outgoing President

When Dave Unowsky (Ruminator Books now with Majors and Quinn) and Beth Bergman (Wet Paint) got together 3 years ago to see what kind of interest there was on an Independent Business Alliance in the Metro area they were pleasantly surprised. That first meeting at Macalester College had about 150 people attending, the second meeting was at the Roseville Library and 100 people, and many were new faces. That is when it started. Thanks to Dave's contacts and Beth's seed money we started the ball rolling. Merritt Clapp-Smith was hired on as E.D.; her paid time was 10 per week not to exceed ½ of the money in the bank account. Thank you Merritt for working MANY more hours than you got paid. The other contributors to the up-start were: Michael Gibbons (attorney at the time in private practice, Andy Hamerlinck (citizen member), John Kolstad (Mill City Music), Marvin Menzel (Homestead Pickin' Parlor), Dori Ullman (citizen member), and John Hoeschen (St. Paul Corner Drug), myself, and I am sure I have forgotten a few contributing, well deserving people. For this I apologize, my memory is not as good as I would like it, thus the reason for having at least a partial list for institutional memory. This was history in the making. Now we are approaching another milestone. Our membership is stable (of course I would like it more...there is 504,000 small business in Minnesota), we have gained the respect of many House and State Representative, and the consumer is starting to understand the economics of supporting locally owned independent businesses. I am proud to have been apart of the beginning of this organization and I look forward to being apart of an even stronger board and the 2008 work plan that Tim Tuel (Shipmate), incoming President has designed.

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Nancy Breyemeier has been working hard on this...

?UNIVERSAL HEALTH...SOCIALIZED MEDICINE?

ing on the front line talking, promoting and testifying for Universal Single Payer Health Care has put me in some very interesting conversations.

FACTS:

The U.S. has the most expensive health care in the world.

Our health care ranks below many other countries.

Over head costs for Health Insurance runs around 20%.

The overhead costs for Medicare is less than 5%.

Universal Single Payer Health Care is simply this:

You pay a premium, (health insurance speak), fee (Gov. Pawlenty speak), tax (Democratic speak) \$\$ (my speak). This goes to a fund for health costs, you go to the doc of your choice, (not one your health insurance says you have to go to) the doc treats you (not having to worry about the insurance company denying any treatment, or test), Doc's submits the bill the bill is paid!!!! This free market health care is called: Minnesota Health Care Bill!

Minnesota Health Care Bill authored by Senator Marty and Representative Tsumpter was heard at the Capitol on February 18, 2008. Metro IBA was asked to testify. It passed the Health Housing and Family Security Committee to move to the Finance Committee. Stay tuned!!!!

Melissa has been working on this...

Mall of America Developers and Bloomington want taxpayer money

The City of Bloomington and the Mall of America developers are asking for public funding for the building of their parking ramps for MoA Phase 2. They would like to be excused from the financial disparities pool for 20 years which leaves everyone else to make up for their contribution and they would also like to be able to charge additional taxes on merchandise and services at the Mall. This is an issue that would affect all businesses and individuals in MN.

I was invited to a meeting at the MN House to hear both sides of the argument. There is very little support for this idea, but it is still being heard. Now we need our voices to be heard...

Please take time to write to your state representatives as well as the Bloomington representatives to stop this from happening.

Welcome New Board Members!

MetroIBA would like to welcome our newly elected Board Members:

Scott Corey, Citizen Member

Michele Cromer-Poire, Red Balloon Bookshop

Dan Marshall, Peapods Natural Toys & Babycare

Carl Pressman, Press Gold Group

Suzanne Weinstein, Costal Seafoods

And Congratulations to Tim Tuel, ShipMate, on his re-election .

Thank you to all of you who participated in the election!

Member to Member Classifieds

Many people have contacted me with events and other announcements that they have and would like to share with our membership. In an effort to accommodate these requests, we will be doing a member to member classified email on the 20th of each month.

Items from your business you may have for that you are looking to sell or give to another business (printers, machines, file cabinets, etc.)

Items you may need for your business

Job openings you have (everybody knows somebody looking for work these days it seems)

Events you have coming up (sales, music, etc.)

Member to Member specials you may want to offer

Any other ideas you think might be appropriate...just let me know!

The deadline for being in each months classified ad email will be the 15th. We will start this month. Email me your ad and I will confirm its placement. Please do not send large files or attachments.

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact Melissa.

3 Things you Should Know About

CONTENTDATA

2722 Highway 694, Suite 130 , New Brighton 651 628-9560

www.contentdata.com Owner, Lisa Torvik

We work primarily with other businesses to convert the information they have on paper– lists, surveys, business records- to an electronic format.

We can edit old electronic files to match new formats, develop and maintain databases at our site, your site, or over the internet.

We have been a locally-owned business in continuous operation for over 20 years.

Honorable Mentions

Metro IBA was quoted in an article titled “The Number Factory” in the February issue of Twin Cities Business Magazine.

In the March 2008 issue of Mpls St.Paul magazine, the following were listed among the best in their “Best Restaurants”

Lucias Birchwood Cafe

Café Latte D’Amico

Nina’s

Congratulations all!

A Reminder...

The Green Lights & Red Flags event being hosted by the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission is on Thursday, April 24. If you have not gotten any information about this event yet, please contact Melissa.

Updated Information Needed

We are trying to make sure all of our records are current as we set up a new database. If you could please email Melissa your contact name, address, phone number and email address at your earliest convenience, we would really appreciate it! Thank you!!!

Zing Train is Coming Back!

By popular demand, MetroIBA is having Zing Train back! This year’s presentation will be *Fun, Flavorful Finance* and will be held on June 10. The location is still to be determined.

This year, we are looking for businesses that would like to be sponsors for the event. The sponsorship levels are as follows:

Benefactor Level - \$3000

Large logo on all event Marketing
Acknowledgement on website
Full Page ad in ZT binder
Up to 10 attendants

Sustainer Level - \$1500

Medium logo on all event Marketing
Acknowledgement on website
Half Page Ad in ZT Binder
Up to 5 attendants

Partner Level - \$500

Small Logo on all event marketing
Acknowledgement on website
1/4 page ad in ZT binder
Up to 2 attendants

If you would be interested in being a sponsor, please email Melissa at Melissa@metroiba.org. We need sponsorship commitments by April 10.

Registration this year will be via PayPal on our website or via check. Rates to attend are as follows:

Members registering before May 1 - \$125. May 1 thru June 1 - \$150

Non-Members registering before May 1 - \$200. May 1 thru June 1 - \$250.

Registration begins March 15 and closes June 1.

More details will follow in the coming weeks.

The MetroIBA Board

The MetroIBA Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. If you have an agenda item you would like us to consider or are interested in attending a meeting, please contact Melissa.

Board Members

Tim Tuel , Vice President (Ship Mate)	Jeff Warner (Warners Stellan)
Kirk Gryder , VP, Treasurer (First National Bank of the Lakes)	Jane Prince (Citizen Member)
Nancy Breymeier , Secretary (Strategic Financial Group)	Jeff Sommers , (Izzy's Ice Cream)
Jesse Mortenson (IDC Web Development)	John Kolstad (Mill City Music)
David Unkowsky (Magers and Quinn Booksellers)	Dan Marshall (Peapods)
Michele Cromer-Poire (Red Balloon)	Carl Pressman (Press Gold Group)
Suzanne Weinstein (Costal Seafoods)	Scott Corey (Citizen Member)

MetroIBA Contact Info

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