



Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce

Serving the Greater Cottage Grove Area

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

First, the Chamber Board would like to **THANK** everyone who participated in the Chamber this year. It was an amazing year with some unique events.

Looking back over the year we've had some incredible speakers and have learned new things, met new members and basically came together as a Chamber. In **January** we met and talked about where we see the Chamber going in 2010. In **February** we had a wonderful mixer at the Overture Center with all of the south central Chambers – we met new people and made new friends. In **March** we met our own Cottage Grove Olympian Jesse Vetter and got to hear her stories and experiences competing in the Olympics. In **April** we heard about the Cottage Grove Kids Dream Park and how we can be involved along with hearing from Alliant Energy on energy saving methods we can use for businesses such as low interest loans for businesses to upgrade to more energy efficient furnaces, appliances, etc. along with being able to participate in their upcoming energy survey for businesses. In **May** we had our annual golf outing to raise money for the scholarships that the Cottage Grove Chamber gives to students from the Monona Grove School District. We raised \$4,671.00 – great job everyone who participated!!!!!! **June** was an exciting month as Cottage Cash was launched and is proving to be a success – growing steadily since that time. In **July** we had a wonderful tour of the Wildwood Facility – thank you again Dr. Steve for giving us a “behind the scenes” look at the facility! In **August** we learned that there are affordable discounted health insurance plans for Chamber members which we can all take advantage of – great information to have in this economy. In **September** we were received the results of the business survey, cooperatively done with the Chamber and Village, it was heartening to hear that for that 75% of our businesses are steady and/or improving their businesses. While only 25% stated business had declined. That says a lot about the businesses we have in Cottage Grove!!! In **October** we got to hear from the Senior Vice-President of Operations for Maurices – John Schroeder – what a wonderful speaker! **December** came Christmas in the Grove – bigger and better than last year – THANK YOU to all who volunteered for the event and to Cheri Krisher for all her hard work organizing it!

Now we look forward to the year 2011 and what it will bring. The elections were held at the **November** membership meeting and the Chamber Board of Directors is now made up of the following individuals:

Tom Wellman, President
Dave Muehl, Past President
Rachel Beck, Secretary
Mark O'Connell, Director

Kim Manley, Vice President
Edward Knapton, Director
Dennis Handel, Treasurer

Happy New Year to You All!