



**Visioneering
Unified Legislative Alliance
October 26, 2007**

**Meeting Minutes
9–11 a.m.**

Benchmark: "The Unified Legislative Agenda Alliance will have a unified agenda that advances Visioneering Wichita."

Attendees: Willis Heck, John Deardoff, Diane Gjerstad, Dave Kerr, ID Creech, Anne Maack, Olivia Simmons, Kendal Heier, Nancy Scott, Amy Farley, Mark Vonacher, Casey Jones, Meryl Dye, Amanda Reinert, Nathan Law, Joe Yager, Andy Schlapp, Fred Ervin, Les Depperschmidt, Carolyn McGinn, Kathy Sexton, Bernie Koch, Trista Curzydlo, John Waltner, Dale Goter, Lyndon Wells

Suzie Ahlstrand, Metro Chamber of Commerce, welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Scott Wituk, Center for Community Support and Research [CCSR], asked participants to introduce themselves, reviewed the purpose of the meeting, Guiding Principles and focus areas [see below]:

The Purpose of the Unified Legislative Alliance Meeting:

- *Review Recent Findings regarding the Impact of South Central Kansas*
- *Review Previous Years' Submission and Current Submissions to Visioneering ULA*
- *Presentations from Regional Legislators regarding their Experiences*

Review Guiding Principles:

- *Identify the "pros and cons" of ideas so that we can make well informed decisions*
- *Elected officials represent the community's will*
- *Respectful of everyone's opinions, recognizing there are multiple viewpoints*
- *Need to agree how to communicate the decisions of the alliance, both within the alliance and to external partners (i.e., media)*
- *Maintain a regional focus*
- *Address other Visioneering benchmarks*
- *Focus on issues not personalities*
- *Inclusiveness (i.e., multiple community sectors, different communities)*

Benchmark Focus Areas:

- *Job Growth*
- *Education*
- *Per Capita Income*

Process to Date & Timeline: Scott described the ULA processes to date and asked members to review the various handouts and timeline found in their packets. There was a short question and answer question.

Impact of South Central Kansas on State of Kansas: Suzie reviewed the statistics on two handouts (<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/ula/Sedg%20Co%20Contributions%20-%20Draft.pdf> and <http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/ula/REAP%20Contributions%20-%20Draft.pdf>). In its final format this information will be shared with the South Central Kansas delegation. Several suggestions were made for additional items to include such as tourism, health care and top industries. Suzie asked participants to forward other relevant data for inclusion in the reports to Diane (dlongfellow@wichitachamber.org).

Previous Years' Submissions & Initial New Submissions for ULA: Scott provided the 2007 ULA timeline (<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/ula/2007%20Timeline%20Updated.pdf>) and scoring matrix (<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/ula/2007%20Scoring%20Matrix.pdf>) for review. The items that will be carried forward are affordable airfares, NIAR funding, nursing education funding, technical education and KSBDC funding. Five pre-submission proposals were received. The official ULA 'Request for Submission' document is due by November 1st @ 3 pm.

Regional Legislators Presentations: Bernie Koch then facilitated a discussion among area legislators on the best practices to advocate for legislative agenda items. Bernie provided a handout (<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/ula/Lobbying%20Tips%20102607.pdf>) and gave suggestions for meeting with legislators. The most effective way to lobby is with spontaneous letters from constituents. Orchestrated letters and email just doesn't work well. Senator Carolyn McGinn talked about the tight time schedule of the legislature in Topeka. Correspondence should state the issue, contain contact information and indicate whether or not a response is requested. For urgent issues call and leave a message once again indicating whether or not a response is desired. Keep in mind they have no budget for correspondence and limited time.

Senator McGinn suggested Visioneering work with someone in Topeka to get weekly updates that could be distributed through the Visioneering website. She mentioned the 1st South Central Kansas Legislature Summit will be held next Friday and Saturday (Nov 2 & 3) at the Hotel at Old Town. Topics covered will be manufacturing, medical and water issues. If this is successful they plan to hold the event again next year. It would be good to have the ULA finalized in time for the summit.

Next Unified Legislative Agenda Meeting: November 8th, 9-11 am, at the Independent Living Resource Center, Wichita.