

TAKING CHARGE

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From the President - David Seitze

Greetings!

It is hard to believe I am writing another Leadership newsletter already! The Leadership Division is currently hosting regional meetings around the state. I have enjoyed seeing all the new and familiar faces, and thank you so much for attending. There are still meetings that are in the planning stages and we will keep everyone posted as to the locations. Please plan on attending if you are able and bring along a guest.

This is a great time of year for the Leadership Division. The Nominating Committee has just finalized our list of new nominees for the Leadership Board and eligible new nominees are very excited and promise to bring a lot of energy to the board. We have many nominees who will be representing chapters in the state that previously have not had representation. You should have received your voting proxy in the mail. Don't forget to return those to IBAT by **May 19**.

As if that is not enough, we are in the final planning stages of this year's 2008 IBAT Leadership Conference—**Catch the Wave to Leadership Excellence**—which will be held at the Moody Gardens Resort in Galveston, June 19-21. Start making your plans to join us for this very informative and dynamic event. We will be focusing on ways to enhance your leadership approach to...Opportunity, Attitudes and Quality Service. If you have joined us before, we want you back and if you have never been to a Leadership Conference, there has never been a better opportunity. This is the Leadership Division's premier networking event of the year. This is why you are a Leadership member, to network with your peers and industry experts and to take back information that will enhance your franchise. I can't wait to see everyone in June and remember our mission—**Building Exceptional Leaders Through Involvement**.

Best regards,

Leadership Division Board of Director Nominations

By now, you should have received your proxy for the Leadership Division Board of Directors.

The new nominees for a three-year term ending in 2011 include:

Gregg Appell	HCSB, Kerrville
Keary Barnes	Catalyst Financial Company, Houston
Abel Castro	First Bank & Trust Company, Lubbock
Misty Clary	Community National Bank, Midland

Bobby Dunkin	First Community Bank, Harlingen
David Fuller	PointBank, Pilot Point
Wendy Griffin	Schertz Bank & Trust
Christy Hester	Texas Bank & Trust, Longview
Michael Rehm	Jefferson State Bank, San Antonio
Craig Roberts	Guaranty Bond Bank, Sulphur Springs

Current directors eligible for a second three-year term include:

Barry Anderson	Texas First Bank, Pearland
Lisa Blankenship	Bank of the West, Irving
Kevin Monk	Alliance Bank, Sulphur Springs
Paige Nash	American National Bank of Texas, Dallas
Les Robbins	Citizens Bank, Abilene

Officers nominated include:

President Kyle Irwin	Gruver State Bank
President-Elect Todd Price	First State Bank, Mesquite
Vice President Gary Wells	Happy State Bank, Amarillo
Secretary Angie Brown	First National Bank, Giddings

Proxies are due by May 19th.

Leadership Pride

Take a bow! You have two more reasons to be proud of your Division. First, The IBAT Leadership Division, already the largest of its kind in the nation, just got bigger. We currently have 598 members and hope to eclipse 600 by the Leadership Conference in June. The Leadership Division Board of Directors conducted a Membership Telethon in April and garnered 35 new members.

Second, thanks to those of you who traveled to Washington, DC for the 16th Annual IBAT Congressional Visit. Of the 100 IBAT members in attendance, 46 are members of the Leadership Division.

For those of you who were not able to attend this year's Visit, we hope you will make plans to go next year. There is "strength in numbers" and most meetings in the congressional offices included 10-12 IBAT members. Needless to say, members of the Texas congressional delegation were very impressed at the number of community bankers on the Hill.

IBAT Trailblazer Awards

In 2007, the Leadership Division selected **Congressman Chet Edwards** of Waco as the Trailblazer Award recipient. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were not able to present him the award in 2007. However, we will honor Cong. Edwards during an award luncheon on **Thursday, May 29, at the Ridgewood Country Club in Waco**. If you are in Cong. Edwards' district, we hope you will make plans to attend this event. The congressman is a strong supporter of community banking and we would like a big turnout as we thank him for his service. Watch your e-mail for more information!

The 2008 Trailblazer Award honoree is longtime IBAT supporter, **Texas Comptroller Susan Combs**. She will receive

her award on **September 23 during the IBAT Convention at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort.**

Catch the Wave to Leadership Excellence

If you have not already done so, be sure to register for the **IBAT Leadership Conference, June 19-21, at the Moody Gardens Resort in Galveston.** You'll go away inspired, energized and motivated.

This year's speakers include **Brad Garland**, president of the Garland Group, who will give us a glimpse into new technologies and how your bank can utilize them to engage your customers on the web.

You'll also hear from **Dana Borowka** of Lighthouse Consulting Services, who will provide insight into some of the crucial issues facing today's organizations, especially in the areas of hiring, management and retention of employees.

Once an All-American athlete at The University of Texas, **Byrd Baggett's** high energy presentation of how he turned tragedy and adversity into success will amaze you and you'll return to your bank with a new attitude and mind-set.

Weaving together his childhood experiences with his father and his adult experiences from law, politics and professional football, **Vince Lombardi, Jr.** brings his audiences direction, enthusiasm, and the impetus to succeed. He allows each individual to do what he does best without losing sight of team goals.

IBAT's Mary Lange and Junior Achievement President Dave Swincher will provide a snappy overview of the ongoing collaborative initiative for financial literacy programs. Attendees will participate in a fun hands-on computer simulation testing their wits on everyday banking concepts.

Pam Coffey from Q-elements, will address wellness issues and their effect on your bank's bottom line.

Add to this great lineup of speakers, the popular **Legislative Briefing** panel where you can get up close and personal with members of the Texas House and Senate, and the **Best Practices Roundtables** where you can network and share ideas with your peers such as marketing, human resources, compliance and operations.

For good measure, let's throw in **golf** at the \$14 million newly renovated Moody Gardens Golf Course; **Exhibitor Reception and Purse/Toy Auction** (bring your checkbook or credit card); presentation of the **Leadership in Excellence Award** (it could be you so you better be there); **Money Camp for the Kids**; and the **Surfin' Safari Dinner and Party**. The whole family will enjoy the Moody Gardens attractions and the Schlitterbahn Waterpark! So why haven't you signed up?

Sign up TODAY and we'll see you in Galveston in June!

It's PAC Time

Start thinking about your auction items and your Dream Vacation tickets. Download an [Auction Pledge form](#) and get your items in early so we can publicize them to our members.

Download the [order form for Dream Vacation](#) tickets - remember, the lucky winner is drawn during the IBAT Convention in September and will receive **\$5000 cash** to use toward their dream vacation or to buy a tank of gas!

Thanks to all of you who conducted an in-bank PAC Drive during March. **Muenster State Bank** was the recipient of an event hosted at their bank by IBAT Staff.

Be a Hero to a Teacher

IBAT wants to recognize and celebrate outstanding teachers who have tackled financial education in the classroom. Not only will the winning teacher receive an award, they also will receive a **cash prize of \$1,000 presented by the nominating banker during ceremonies at the school!** [Click here](#) for more information and the nomination form and learn how you could be a hometown hero to one of your local teachers by nominating them for the **Teaching Excellence in Financial Literacy Award**. Deadline for nominations is **June 1st** so don't delay!

Tip of the Month

If you want the audience to remember the most important points in your message, make each point in three to six different ways as you speak. According to one study, if you make a point only one time, just 10% of the audience will remember it at the end of the presentation. If you repeat it six times, retention jumps to 90%.

(Source: Communication Briefings)

The IBAT Leadership Division Building Exceptional Leaders Through Involvement

Independent Bankers Association of Texas

www.ibat.org