

Footnotes...

FIRST QUARTER 2007

Forum elects five new board members

At its 94th annual meeting, the Public Policy Forum elected the following members to its Board of Trustees:



Allan E. Erickson, P.E.
Area Manager &
Vice President
CH2M Hill



Michael G. Goodrich
General Manager
*Forest County Potawatomi
Bingo Casino*



Margaret J. Henningsen
Vice President
Legacy Bank



Barbara A. Prindiville, Ph.D.
President
*Waukesha County
Technical College*



David G. Rodgers
Controller
*Briggs & Stratton
Corporation*

Officers and board members re-elected were:

Chairman:

F. William Haberman
Michael Best & Friedrich

Vice chairs:

Brian S. Swenson
HNTB Corporation

James T. Barry III
Colliers Barry, Inc.

Kristine Hinrichs
Milwaukee Municipal Court

Secretary:

Susan H. Hatch
Hatch Staffing Services

Treasurer:

Roger Schroeder

President:

Jeff Browne
Public Policy Forum

William R. Adams
William Adams Consulting

William Andreopoulos
MPS

John P. Biever
Badger Meter, Inc.

Bruce Block
Reinhart, Boerner

Tina Chang
SysLogic, Inc.

Kathryn Dunn
*Helen Bader
Foundation*

Susan F. Friebert
*Milw. Teacher
Education Center*

Michael Harrigan
Ehlers & Associates

Keith Kolb
Robert W. Baird

Joan Prince, Ph.D.
UW-Milwaukee

Lisa Robbins
Brady Marketing

Hermann Viets
MSOE

Rick White
We Energies

Forum enters blogosphere

The Forum has unleashed its own blog. Called "Milwaukee Talkie: Pondering Policy Frankly," it's "a blog to encourage a thoughtful and balanced exchange of ideas on critical policy issues in southeastern Wisconsin." You can log on by going to www.milwaukeetalkie.blogspot.com.

If you'd like to sponsor the blog or our Web site, contact the Forum at jslaske@publicpolicyforum.org or 414-276-8240.

Salud

In an upcoming Viewpoint luncheon on Wednesday May 9, the Forum will explore various health care plans for Wisconsin residents. The panel will include Kevin Hayden, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services; State Representative Jon Richards, assistant minority Assembly leader; David Newby, president, Wisconsin AFL-CIO; and Dianne Kiehl, executive director of the Business Health Care Group of Southeastern Wisconsin. The moderator will be Paul Nannis, vice president - government and community relations, Aurora Health Care. Check the Forum Web site, www.publicpolicyforum.org for more details.

Salute

Wednesday, June 20 is the date for this year's "Salute to Local Government." It's the Forum's only fundraiser of the year. Plus, it's the only event that we're aware of throughout the state that honors local government. Please plan on being there. Keep the date open and check www.publicpolicyforum.org for more details.

Footnotes (published quarterly)

President: Jeffrey C. Browne
Research Director: Anneliese M. Dickman, J.D.
Senior Researcher: Ryan J. Horton, M.U.P.
Researcher: Jeffrey K. Schmidt
Research Associate: James Robinson
Communications Director: Jerry Slaske
Office Manager: Catherine A. Crother

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Voucher schools vs. MPS: Main event or sideshow?

The Forum released a Research Brief, “Are voucher schools putting the squeeze on MPS?” in February trying to determine how much of a factor – if any – voucher schools are when it comes to putting pressure on MPS to improve.

The brief found that even though voucher school enrollment increased in the past year by 2,516, almost 60% of the new vouchers went to students already in private schools, and that religious schools enrolled 80% of all voucher students in 2006-2007. While predictions fell short of how many total students would be enrolled in voucher schools this year, religious schools were closer to the

predicted goals than were nonreligious schools. So the question arises, Are these students in the voucher program for the religious aspect of education or as a way of getting away from MPS? It’s an interesting discussion and the brief can be found at www.publicpolicyforum.org.

The 2006-2007 voucher school poster – the only resource available that gives basic information about all 124 schools in the voucher program – was published along with the brief. It is available on our Web site or by contacting Jeff Schmidt at the Forum at jschmidt@publicpolicyforum.org or 414-276-8240.

Swimming upstream in Great Lakes region

The Brookings Institution economist John Austin was the featured speaker at the February 8 Viewpoint luncheon on putting the economic muscle back in the Great Lakes region. Mr. Austin wrote a report, “The Vital Center,” looking at ways to revive the region which includes all or parts of 12 states and several Canadian provinces.

Austin made the point that if the Great Lakes region were a nation it would be the world’s third largest economy, trailing only the U.S. and Japan. Nevertheless, he said it’s in a precarious position because its economic might was and still is to a certain degree firmly

entrenched in the waning industrial era. Rather than looking backward, he said, the region must use the assets it has in innovative, forward-looking ways. Those assets include being situated on the largest pool of freshwater on earth, strong research infrastructure, world-class universities, tremendous work ethic, and some of the world’s largest companies.

The luncheon was sponsored by:



(See pictures on facing page.)

Guns or roses?

A panel of three law enforcement experts and an advocate against police brutality didn’t reach a consensus on what qualities would be needed in Milwaukee’s next police chief, but the discussion was lively and did elicit several strongly held opinions about what should happen. As Forum member Rick Smith, president of R.A. Smith & Associates, said, there was tension in the room.

The panel was made up of John Balcerzak, president of the Milwaukee Police Association; John Chisholm, Milwaukee County district attorney; David Clarke, Jr., Milwaukee County sheriff; and Matt Nelson, executive director of the Milwaukee Police Accountability Coalition. Moderating the discussion was Sheila Ashley, deputy director of the Milwaukee office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Clarke told the approximately 120 attendees that there must be a culture change to re-establish the department’s

credibility within the community and to achieve the goal of reducing crime. He also said there needs to be a plan that includes benchmarks and accountability. Balcerzak said the new chief must be able to boost morale within the department and win back the confidence of rank-and-file officers. Chisholm suggested that a new chief needs to help recreate a sense of neighborhood by adopting procedures that allow officers to get to know the people in their patrol areas. He said officers are not just law enforcers, but ambassadors, social workers, and teachers. Nelson was adamant that change within the department must take place to address police violence.

The March 15 Viewpoint was sponsored by:



(See pictures on facing page.)

Viewpoints draw enthusiastic and diverse crowds

"The Vital Center"



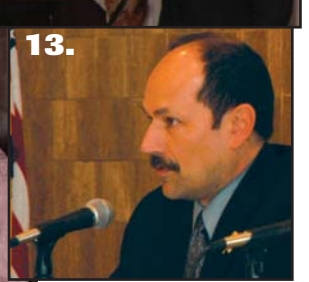
1) & 6) John Austin, an economist at the Washington, D.C.-based The Brookings Institution, spoke about what the Great Lakes region has to do to regain its economic dominance. Austin's report, *The Vital Center*, which provided the basis for his speech is an in-depth look at the problems and opportunities the region faces. **2)** Jeff Crawford, Forest County Potawatomi Community's attorney general, talked about the tribe's history in the Great Lakes region and its involvement in economic development in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley and throughout the state of Wisconsin. **3)** In a first for the Forum, the Viewpoint luncheon was totally underwritten by Forest County Potawatomi Community, Gilbane Building Company, and Irgens Development Partners. It was held in the Woodland Dreams Conference Center, connected to the Potawatomi casino. **4), 5), 7) & 8)** Austin's message about a comeback for the region drew the interest of and questions from the audience of about 125.

Guns or roses?



employees listened intently. Public safety is important to the company's involvement in the redevelopment of the city's 30th street corridor. **15) 16) & 17)** There was no shortage of questions from the audience of about 120. **18)** Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said there is a need to focus on habitual and violent criminals, the small percentage that creates most of the problems. **19)** No matter who is chosen as the new police chief, Matt Nelson (right), executive director of the Milwaukee Police Accountability Coalition, was adamant that police brutality must be dealt with swiftly and decisively in a new administration.

9) Before the panel discussion on public safety in Milwaukee got underway, Forum Chairman Bill Haberman waved the newly published Forum annual report and exhorted attendees to become Forum members if they weren't already. **10)** In addition to a panel discussion on public safety, the Viewpoint luncheon doubled as the Forum's 94th annual meeting, at which new board members were elected and current board members were re-elected. **11)** Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, Jr., who was a detective with the Milwaukee Police Department, said the new police chief needs a plan with benchmarks and accountability to combat city crime. **12)** Panel moderator Sheila Ashley, deputy director of the Milwaukee office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, kept things moving along. **13)** Police union head John Balcerzak said the new chief must be able to boost morale within the department, giving rank-and-file officers the support they need in extremely difficult and dangerous situations. **14)** Eaton Corporation



20) The Viewpoint panel included (left to right) Sheila Ashley, deputy director of the Milwaukee office of the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development; John Balcerzak, president of the Milwaukee Police Association; John Chisholm, Milwaukee County district attorney; David Clarke, Jr., Milwaukee County sheriff; and Matt Nelson, executive director of the Milwaukee Police Accountability Coalition.

From "Milwaukee Talkie": milwaukeeetalkie.blogspot.com/2007/03/milwaukee-bedroom-community.html

Posted by Forum senior researcher Ryan Horton

Strange bedfellows?

Governor Doyle's proposed biennial budget calls for additional spending to grow Milwaukee's economy. Undoubtedly, this spending package will face intense pressure from out-state legislators looking to secure goodies of their own. Can't blame them for that.

But, according to a recent blog post on postwritersgroup.com by Neal Peirce, one of the nation's foremost writers on metro issues, our second-tier cities – of which Milwaukee is one – are entirely justified in seeking "more generous state aid for hard pressed city governments" based on new research by The Brookings Institution.

Mr. Peirce said that most state investment in a city like Milwaukee is warranted by the city's proximity to Chicago. Basically, Chicago has stifling traffic congestion, high housing costs, and a seemingly unsustainable and sprawling land-use pattern. Milwaukee, by extension, would be the next logical place to accommodate Chicago's growth. After all, it has the existing infrastructure, a large and growing immigrant labor force, a solid existing housing stock, and attractive quality-of-life amenities.

In other words, invest in Milwaukee to help it become Chicago's newest, largest, and most economically diverse bedroom community.

The Brookings report and Mr. Peirce's commentary should please supporters of both the proposed KRM train line and Governor Doyle's spending plan for Milwaukee.

Then again, do we really want to become Chicago's newest bedroom community?

Stories based on Forum race relations survey win award

The "State of Race Relations in the Milwaukee Area," a series of stories by *The Business Journal* based on the Forum's survey on race relations won first place for single business story or series in 2006 from the Milwaukee Press Club. The eight-page section, published on December 1, provided an in-depth look at the survey's results.