

# Newsletter – March 2009

*Business Working for Our Communities*

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## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**  
Grand Opening, LaQuinta  
**Friday, March 27, 2009**  
Ribbon Cutting, Eve's Garden  
**Friday, April 3, 2009**  
EDC Meeting at Igloo  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2009**  
Membership Meeting  
**Tuesday, May 4, 2009**  
Membership Meeting

## Board of Directors

Greg Turner . . . . . President  
Turner Partners Architecture, LLP  
281-497-1040

Paul McConnell. . . Vice President  
Key Insurance Agency,  
281-375-5588

Deborah Tallman . . . . . Director  
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Inc., 281-822-4210

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281-375-5233

Wallace Everitt . . . . . Director  
Southwest Properties,  
281-375-5575

Jim Vaughn . . . . . Director  
Igloo Products Corp.

Michael Montgomery. . . Director  
West Engineering

## Committees & Chairs

### Economic Development

Jon Strange, JNS Consulting Engineers

### Web Site

Paul McConnell, Key Insurance Agency

### Annual Banquet

Roberta Meader, West Engineering

### Membership & Marketing

David Woodham,  
Consolidated Communications

### Fundraising

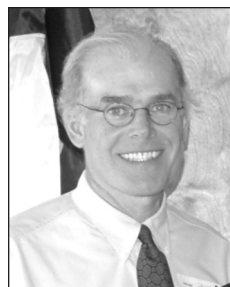
Legislative & Governmental Affairs

### Nominating

### Program & Events

Pat Doucette, Edward Jones

**Administrative Director**  
Kathryn McAdams Wilson  
281-375-8100



## President's Message

*Greg Turner  
Turner Partners Architecture, LLP*

*West I-10 Chamber  
President's Message March 12, 2009*

It would be difficult to exaggerate the enjoyment and education we experienced on our "Texas Independence Week" trip to Austin on March 5. We

began at the Igloo plant (thanks, Igloo!) early in the morning with a bus load of surprisingly awake and lively people! We spent the morning in Austin visiting with Sen. Glenn Hegar and Reps. John Zerwas and Bill Callegari, as well as posing for photos with Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and House Speaker Joe Straus. Along the way Sen. Dan Patrick stopped to say hello. The highlight for me was standing on the House floor with Commissioner Glenn Beckendorff, Fulshear Mayor Jamie Roberts, JP Ted Krenek, and our "program director" Kaye Goolsby, as the House passed a resolution honoring the work of our chamber. We were also presented later with a similar Senate Resolution by Sen. Hegar.

In the afternoon we heard from a succession of speakers who provided the "insider's view" of the workings of your state government. These included

Glenn Hegar, Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, and Supreme Court Justice Harriett O'Neill, among others. One rarely has the chance to meet informally in such a small group with our officials; it was informative and insightful. The day concluded with our own private tour of the State Capitol Building!

Properly thanking everyone who contributed to the trip's success would use more ink than the newspaper has. However, the staffs of your State Sen. Glenn Hegar and your State Representative John Zerwas were outstanding. We appreciate our sponsors for the trip: LJA Engineering, Turner Partners Architecture, Houston Executive Airport, and JNS Engineering. Most of all, we are very, very grateful to our friend Kaye Goolsby, who put the entire day in Austin together for us.

## More Americans Filing Taxes Early To Share Refunds With Family Members In Need

(StatePoint) With many families feeling the impact of the current economic crunch, more people are filing their taxes early to receive tax refunds sooner. And many are saying they are doing so in order to share their tax refunds with a family member or close friend in need of a financial boost.

So says a new survey conducted by Western Union, a world leader in global money transfer services. According to the survey, 42 percent of consumers

said they are planning to file their tax returns earlier than usual this year to receive any refunds sooner. Consumer generosity is evidenced with 72 percent reporting they would share their large tax refunds with a friend or family member who is having trouble paying their current living expenses.

"In these trying economic times, more and more people are willing to step up and lend a hand to those in need. While some consumers may not

yet feel the effects of the current economic climate, they do see the financial situations their friends and families are in and are ready to provide them with some financial relief," says Jorge Consuegra, Western Union Senior Vice President of U.S. Product Management.

In the last six months, more than a third of consumers have had a friend or relative borrow or accept money from them to help make ends meet.

"As tax refunds are arriving in people's mailboxes, and the economy continues to add to our collective financial burden, we believe these instances of familial giving are going to increase," says Consuegra. "Western Union is a reliable way to send money to a loved one in need whether around the corner, or around the world."

When sending money, money transfers are a faster way of making cash available versus sending it via mail. Cash can be sent and received in just a matter of minutes, simply by conducting the transaction at one of 44,000 Western Union Agent locations found in most major national and regional grocery chains in the U.S. Additionally, money can be sent via westernunion.com or by calling 1-800-CALL-CASH.

In addition to those occasions where consumers are sending money, the new survey found that nearly one in five (19 percent) of respondents reported having received financial help from friends or family in the last six months. The survey also revealed that close to half (47 percent) of those surveyed would likely accept a friend or family member's offer to share his or her tax refund with them should the need arise.

## FIRST COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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# West I-10 Chamber takes trip to Austin



Photos by Sandy Buller of Sweet Spirit Productions.

  
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