



## ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT LTD.

*A Division of USA Management Solutions, Inc.*

May 24, 2016

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee Members,

**It is an honor to support the nomination of Vicki Comegys for the *Business Record's* 2016 Women of Influence recognition.**

Our firm provides association leadership and management services for state, national and international non-profit trade associations and professional societies. Our members represent a variety of industries across the nation. We work with Convention & Visitors Bureaus regularly as we plan our clients' conventions and trade shows. Other CVBs can't hold a candle to ours! **When I mention the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau to my peers across the U.S., people say, "Oh you must know Vicki Comegys! She is amazing!" Never fails. She has made an impact in Iowa and beyond our borders.**

Last year, the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, our firm AML and the Iowa Soybean Association partnered together to host the Association Management Companies (AMCs) Regional Forum and Iowa Experience. Our visitors had the opportunity to learn from a national speaker, experience the pulse of Greater Des Moines and enjoy genuine hospitality at an Iowa farm. The educational and networking event brought 50 AMCs from across the U.S. and Canada, representing more than 200 professional associations throughout North America. The mini-conference was a first of its kind. The buzz surrounding the event garnered the AMC Institute's endorsement, providing continuing education credits for certified association executives (CAE), and stating the inaugural event may be a model for future opportunities. The Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau sponsored the event, along with Louisville, Ky., Oklahoma City, and Alberta, Canada convention and visitors bureaus. **Vicki Comegys led the charge for this very unique two-day experience. She is a great champion for Iowa!**

Notable opportunities the attendees experienced included:

- Iowa barbeque and farm-to-table education at the Ron Heck Family Farm.
- Community outreach project with Meals from the Heartland and the Iowa Food and Family Project.
- Speaker John Spence, one of the Top 100 Business Thought Leaders in America.
- Staying at the Hotel Pattee, with a rich tradition and exceptional service, located in Perry.
- Bus tour of Greater Des Moines.
- Tour of the World Food Prize.

**Vicki Comegys is also recognized nationally as a leader and has served in officer roles in her industry associations. She gives back to the industry who has given much to her. She is a role model for up and coming professionals. Her leadership and commitment are demonstrated to anything she touches.**

Thank you for your consideration of Vicki Comegys. She is well-deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,

Molly A. Lopez, CAE  
AML President

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## **IOWA AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION**

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### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Vicki Comegys and I first met in 1993 when Des Moines first bid on the 1995 AAU Junior Olympics. She was one of the forerunners of the sports market in the Greater Des Moines Area and realized the impact that youth sports could make to the economy of hosting cities.

AAU wanted Des Moines to also take a 14:U AAU Boys Basketball National Tournament. Vicki talked me into being the tournament director for that tournament encouraging me all the way. Vicki walked with me all the way lending her assistance for hotel information, renting facilities, getting volunteers and all the other aspects of running a successful tournament. Of course, I had never done any of these things on a National level and it was a real learning experience that I could never have done without Vicki's assistance.

After a successful tournament, AAU with the assistance of Vicki Comegys have run many successful National Tournaments in AAU Boys Basketball, AAU Girls Basketball, the first National AAU Baseball tournaments, AAU National Gymnastics Meets, and AAU National Volleyball Tournament. Also Des Moines has hosted the AAU Junior Olympic Games in 2004, 2009 and 2014.

Because of this relationship with Vicki and the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, we were able to start to put Des Moines on the map as a sports destination. Vicki is always there to answer your questions and genially cares about your success. Over the years with this professional relationship I now call Vicki Comegys one of my best friends.

Sincerely,

Teresa M. Parmenter  
Governor  
Iowa Amateur Athletic Union

MARY L. CHAPMAN  
3031 GRAND AVE, UNIT 217  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50312  
[mchappy@mchsi.com](mailto:mchappy@mchsi.com)

May 24, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter to support the nomination of Vicki Comegys for the Business Records' Women of Influence recognition.

I have grown to know Vicki over the past 11 years serving with her on various Greater Des Moines Partnership Diversity and Inclusion Council committees and community projects through her role as the Vice President of Convention, Sports and Services at the Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau. She leads a team to increase dollars for the community through booking conventions and events in Greater Des Moines.

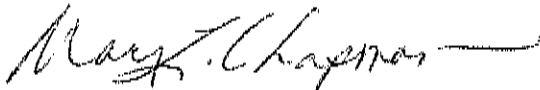
Vicki's commitment to the empowerment of women and to diversity and inclusion is consistent and authentic. She combines personal dedication with leadership skills, knowledge of her industry work and hands-on-action to produce results.

One example is her targeted efforts to actively engage in the national diversity marketplace to promote the Greater Des Moines region as a meeting destination for business, education, and social service organizations that have a mission in one or more of these affinity groups, cultural, ethnic and sexual orientation. Several national and regional conferences are scheduled in Des Moines as a result of Vicki's leadership with staff and key stakeholders in planning and implementing action oriented follow up. This is just one example that demonstrates that Vicki recognizes that diversity and inclusion are not only important as the right thing to do, but is good business and economically smart.

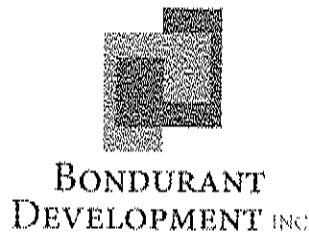
In closing, Vicki is highly regarded for her advocacy, servant leadership, and commitment to diversity and inclusion which are referenced quite often when noting the profile of an effective leader.

Vicki richly deserves the honor for she is truly a woman of influence. If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at 515-229-7883.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Chapman, Ed. D.  
Vice President Emeritus/Ambassador  
Des Moines Area Community College  
515-229-7883



May 25, 2016

Greg Edwards  
Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau  
400 Locust Street, Suite 265  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Vicki Comegys for the Business Record's Women of Influence award. As President of Bondurant Development, Inc. (BDI), I have come to know Vicki over the past couple of years primarily through her service on BDI's Arts & Recreation Committee.

The Arts & Recreation Committee's purpose is to improve the quality of life of Bondurant's residents and attract visitors to the city through improving and enhancing public spaces through public art and new and revitalized facilities. Vicki has brought a tremendous energy and leadership to that Committee. She has taken a lead role in moving forward the Committee's "Porch Swings and Fireflies" project. This project is a \$450,000 improvement to a city park, whose principal feature is a significant public art piece.

Vicki is also very active in the community. She volunteers her time at many community events. She also puts to great use in the community her experience and connections she has obtained through her years at the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau. She actively offers her knowledge base and time to make connections between Bondurant community leaders and other leaders in the Des Moines area so that the city and the metro can continue to grow and be a better place to live.

Vicki is truly a Woman of Influence, in Bondurant as well as the entire Des Moines metro area!

Sincerely,

*Brian Lohse*

Brian Lohse  
President



**COUNTY OF POLK**  
**Board of Supervisors**

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May 24, 2016

To the Business Record,

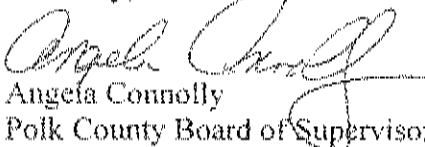
It is with great pleasure that I recommend Vicki Comegys for the Business Record Women of Influence award.

I have known and worked with Vicki for approximately 18 years and she has consistently promoted and advocated for the Greater Des Moines area. In her role at the Visitors & Convention Bureau Vicki has been instrumental in numerous high profile projects such as gaining support for the construction of the Iowa Events Center, Hall of Pride and most recently the Iowa Events Center Convention Hotel. Each of these projects will have a lasting impact on our community and her advocacy was crucial.

Vicki's dedication to the Greater Des Moines community has contributed to unprecedented growth and recognition as a desirable city for businesses and families. Her passion for our community is also seen through her involvement in non-profit organizations throughout Polk County.

In the many years that I have known Vicki I have always found her to be an honest, hard working, and compassionate person. She is an example of achievement and integrity for all women. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to further discuss Vicki Comegys as a candidate for the Business Record Women of Influence Award.

Sincerely,

  
Angela Connolly  
Polk County Board of Supervisors