

# BizVoice Beginnings: The Inaugural Issue

By Tom Schuman



The BizVoice® debut in July 1998.

My first day at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce on April 13, 1998 went something like this: “Yeah, we’ve got this new magazine we’re going to produce, the first issue is going to be published July 1 – and you’ve got a lot of work to do.”

Actually, I learned about BizVoice® during the interview process but you get the idea. There was a lot of work to do and little time.

As this marks the 100th issue of BizVoice (see some staff recollections of favorite interviews/stories on Page 12), it seems an appropriate time to look back at issue one. I peeked, I cringed (trust me, we’ve come a long way in both the design and content), but I also marveled at a couple of the topics that were covered.

Such as:

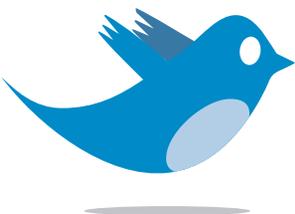
- The first roundtable discussion (they’ve continued in every issue since with only a few exceptions) topped by the headline: “Finding Qualified Workers a Big Challenge.” Hey, is this 1998 or 2015?
- A Two Sides (that’s a pair of guest opinion columns) feature answering the question: Should public employees be forced to pay money to a union to which they do not belong? In a first cousin-type development, little did anyone know that Indiana would become the 23rd right-to-work state 14 years later.
- There was also a feature on a new Indiana Chamber Foundation study titled *Blueprint for a Dynamic Small Business Community*. There have been numerous important Foundation reports – along with results achieved – in these pages ever since.

One might think what great planning to have this special edition focused on *Indiana Vision 2025* and our state’s future as the 100th issue. Our team would like to take credit for that, but the truth is it’s just a happy coincidence. In other words, the issue number is not really all that important.

While we celebrate 100, I’m proud of the effort that our Chamber team puts into each and every issue. We hope you enjoy the results and will continue to do so for years to come.

## What’s Chirping on Tweet Street?

The Indiana Chamber has nearly 12,000 Twitter followers. Are you on the list? Here are some examples of recent activity:



### @IndianaChamber

Be a part of Small Business Saturday & support your local shops today: <http://goo.gl/WVhpszW>

Gary continues downtown revitalization – includes investment from @centierbank <http://ow.ly/EROSJ> (via @IIB)

Our enhanced <http://IndianaSkills.com> will alert Hoosiers to array of jobs in demand; now includes 4-yr degree & higher <http://tiny.cc/idnmpx>

Chamber Pres. Brinegar on Senate defeat of #KeystonePipeline; praises @SenDanCoats @SenDonnelly for their support <http://tiny.cc/2vukpx>

We honored Sens. Crider & Pete Miller + Reps. Austin, Milo Smith & Ziemke as Small Biz Champs <http://tiny.cc/naihpx>

An IN Chamber 2015 legislative priority: Eliminate small businesses having to file personal property tax returns #CILP15 #INlegis

### What others are saying to – or about – the Indiana Chamber:

**@ScottDPelath:** Participating in the @IndianaChamber pre-session forum, an annual legislative tradition...

**@INInstitute:** #WorkSharing gives employers choice, workers keep job/benefits & it costs less.” Kevin Brinegar @IndianaChamber [goo.gl/NeQRcq](http://goo.gl/NeQRcq) @IIB

**@ReadyIndiana:** Welcome to the @IndianaChamber’s new indianaskills.com! Check it out. Now offering BA+ supply and demand data.

**@IUMcKinney:** Congratulations to @SusanWBrooks ‘85, named Government Leader of the Year by @IndianaChamber bit.ly/1qFVK3Z

**@indystar:** The next push for Sunday carryout alcohol sales will get a big boost from the @IndianaChamber. [indy.st/1qP8FR4](http://indy.st/1qP8FR4)

**@morellomedia:** More drama in #INSBOE land: @IndianaChamber will advocate for appointing the state superintendent position. [ipm.io/1xxW10e](http://ipm.io/1xxW10e)