



Illinois Association of County Officials NEWS

"...improving the quality of public service through education."

WINTER 2022

www.iaconline.org

2022 IACO OFFICERS:

President

Bobbi Rairden - Douglas County Treasurer

President Elect

Melissa Hurst - Coles County Circuit Clerk

Vice President

Rebecca C. McNeil - McLean County Treasurer

Secretary / Treasurer

Erin Cartwright Weinstein
Lake County Circuit Clerk

Immediate Past President

Mike Iwanicki - VAC of McHenry County

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Coroners and Medical Examiners

Chris Marsh - White County

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County Clerk and Recorders

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Regional Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Mueller - ROE #40

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INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

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IL Association of County Officials

P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

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Message from our President

Bobbi Rairden
Douglas County Treasurer

2022! A fresh start. A new beginning. A time of resolutions. Let us all resolve to be better. Do more. Be more involved. I cannot stress enough that we are all in this together. Together, we, our affiliates, and our offices can be so much better. We can all learn from one another. IACO is the ideal umbrella to provide that learning space.

Communication is key to making all of the above happen. We are starting right here. IACO will be all about communication. It is vital in our work, with our families, and with our friends. We want you to know where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. We want all of you with us every step of the way. From educational information for our members including recaps and links to many of our most recent educational sessions at conference to information about our expanding scholarship program, we want you all to be in the know whether you attended conference or not.

It is also my goal to make the scholarship fund financially stable with a healthy balance and a plan for future fund-raising to provide scholarships for many years to come. Look for applications and information in this newsletter.

Once again, this association is for you and your affiliates. Make suggestions. Ask questions. We welcome your input. Together we are better.

Happy New Year!!

IACO 2022 Spring Conference:

May 11-13, 2022 (Wednesday – Friday)

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL



**Online Conference Registration opens
February 1st www.iaconline.org**

IACO Secretary/Treasurer

The IACO would like to welcome Erin Cartwright-Weinstein (Lake County Circuit Clerk) to the Executive Board as the 2022 Secretary Treasurer. Erin will serve a year in each of the five executive chair offices: Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect, President, and Past President. Erin brings with her a long record of service to the position. Before being elected to the office of Lake County Circuit Clerk, Erin practiced law for almost 17 years. After being nominated, Erin submitted an application and was voted into the chair by the members of the IACO Board. When asked why she wanted to serve in this role, Erin said: "I believe in County government and truly believe that education and camaraderie of our elected officials is how we provide the best service. Being a team player is very important to me, and I enjoy working on boards where we can bring all of our ideas together as a group!" We are confident that Erin's experience, skills, and excitement to work together with the Board on behalf of all County officials will be an asset to the IACO and to each of you!



Thank you!

We can all honestly say, that 2020 and year 2021 have been anything but normal! So, in true COVID fashion, our 2021 president, Mike Iwanicki, found out he was COVID positive the day before the 2021 Fall Conference was to start. We are happy to say Mike has made a full recovery, but once again, we had to adjust. A very special thanks goes to Scott Erickson, Past President and Incoming President Bobbi Rairden for stepping up to fill the void.



We hope to present Mike with his President's award at the 2022 IACO Spring Conference.

Serving on the IACO Board comes with great responsibility and not nearly equal reward. As the IACO Administrator, I'd like to personally say, I cannot do this job without their support.

Thank you Mike and Scott for your excellent record of service to this association.

~ Tamiko Kinkade, IACO Administrator

IACO Board Swearing In



At the IACO Fall Conference, the 2022 IACO Board of Directors were sworn in. The full list of IACO Board Members is on page 1 of this newsletter, and their contact information can be found on the website at www.iacoonline.org. Each Affiliate Board representative serves a 3-year term and is placed on the IACO Board to represent you and your desires for your affiliate organization. Get to know your affiliate representative.

County Official Memorials

Please submit the names of current or former **county officials that have passed away**. The last time we were able to honor these individuals was the 2021 Spring (June) Conference. So, please forward to me anyone that has passed since then. You can forward the information to me Tamiko Kinkade at tkcps@comcast.net. We will remember them during our 2022 Spring Conference.

IACO Scholarship Update:

We have updated the IACO scholarship program to include 1- and 2- year technical schools. Also, since we did not present scholarships for 2021, graduates from 2021 and 2022 are eligible for this year's scholarships.

The updated application is included in this newsletter. Applications must be submitted no later than **April 8, 2022**.

Scholarships will be presented at the IACO 2022 Spring Conference May 11-13, 2022.

Thank you to our 2021 Fall Conference Sponsors

Platinum Level Sponsors:



Gold Level Sponsors:

Bellwether LLC
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Fike & Fike, Inc.	VR Systems, Inc.
GBS	

2021 Fall Conference Wrap-up!

It's safe to say we are *back in the swing of things* after a second successful conference in 2021! This past year, we moved our Fall Conference from Peoria to Bloomington-Normal and we had an excellent turnout. We were joined by 50 vendors and over 300 attendees! We are so thankful to our vendors. They work hard to bring necessary services to your counties and constituents, so we are always thankful to get face time with them at the conferences. Check out our list of sponsors on the left side of this page!

Some of the highlights of this conference included: a sold out exhibit hall, plenty of ARPA education, an evening show with Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant that was graciously provided by Bellwether, and a full day of training and CE put on by each affiliate group. We rounded out the conference with our Presidents' Banquet and non-stop laughter thanks to GIT Improv.

Wednesday, we started our day with a full house in the IMRF session. We are so glad that Randy Stevens was able to join us again after taking a break from conferences since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund is important to every one of our attendees and we always walk away feeling more informed than when we entered.

Immediately following the IMRF session, we were joined remotely once again by Emily Swenson Brock, director of the Government Finance Officers Association, to ask more questions and get into the nitty gritty of what the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) looks like now as it is being used. She provided us with a copy of her informational powerpoint and it will be available on our website soon, along with presentations from the other ARPA presenters. So, if you weren't able to attend the conference or missed out on some details, you can find those there by the end of the month!

Following Emily's presentation, we heard from Bruce DeLashmit, the founder of Bellwether, LLC. Bruce's experience includes over 35 years of extensive transformation leadership and consulting in small and large companies as well as national and local government structures. Bellwether has been helping many counties with the ARPA reporting requirements and he provided some valuable insight on that. His presentation will also be available online.

After lunch, we had an informative session with Donna Rogers (MEd, SPHR, SHRM-SCP) on Resume and Application Review. She helped us with something that everyone needs to revisit from time to time: how to select the best applicants to bring in for an interview. Donna gave her

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Conference Wrap-up

Continued from page 3

recommendations on not judging a book by its cover and having a process in place for applicant selection.

Then, it was back to ARPA and we got to hear a presentation on how local governments are planning to use their ARPA fiscal recovery funds by Laura Goddeeris, AICP. Laura is Director of Survey Research for the International City/County Management Association and she oversees quantitative and qualitative research activities on enduring and emerging local government management issues and manages relationships with external researchers, partners, and funders.

Our final education session of the day was a panel of experienced County representatives from around the state who facilitated a discussion on how our counties can use these once-in-a-generation federal funds. The panel was made up of the following members: **Darlene Kloeppel**, Champaign County Executive; **Jim Marlo**, Williamson County Commissioner and Chair; **John McIntyre**, McLean County Board Chair; **Sharon Schallhorn**, Bureau County Administrator; **Scott Schwerer**, McDonough County Board Chair; and **Michael Skala**, McHenry County Finance Chair.

Wednesday night was a time to kick back and relax. Thanks to Bellwether, LLC, we were treated to a show called "Timeless Wisdom: An Evening with American Icons." Those in attendance got to hear from historical impersonators of two men who cared deeply about our country: Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. Everyone agreed that the show was excellent.

On Thursday, attendees broke into their affiliate groups for more training and education alongside their colleagues. We ended the day with the President's Banquet where we awarded the title of 2021 County Official of the Year to Bob Kahman, McLean County Assessor. We also held a ceremony to induct new members of the Board and Executive Board into office. At the end of the night, we were treated to a hilarious show by GIT Improv. We certainly all needed to laugh considering the chaotic times we are currently living in, and they more than delivered! The conference wrapped up Friday morning with a short breakfast where affiliates gave reports about their affiliate training. It is our hope that everyone headed home thankful to gather together.

Our Spring Conference will be held May 11-13th in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and we are already excited about the education sessions and hopeful for the networking that will happen. Make sure to save that date!



2021 Fall Conference Highlights



2021 County Official of the Year



Robert T. "Bob" Kahman
McLean County Supervisor of Assessments

Each year the IACO recognizes an outstanding county government official who best demonstrates our mission of improving the quality of county government through education, promoting responsible public policy, and providing ethical service while maintaining a high standard of performance. The County Official of the Year Award recognizes a county government official or employee who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in county government both within his or her own community and on a regional or statewide level. The 2021 County Official of the Year was awarded to Robert T. "Bob" Kahman. He was nominated for the award by eight colleagues from throughout the state.

"Bob has been a leader that knows so many things and does so much well. Yet, he is always willing to help mentor others by sharing what he knows, not only as county assessor but life also," said Larry Wilson, Rock Island County Supervisor of Assessments. Logan County Supervisor of Assessments agreed, saying "Bob's ethical standards and commitment to excellence are evident in his work."

McLean County officials joined those statewide praising Kahman. "He led his department in developing and displaying an accurate informational systemic approach which became exemplary, not only for our County, but throughout the State of Illinois," said McLean County Board Chairman John D. McIntyre. "Bob was also very involved with the GIS, E911, and Devnet Property Tax Software System conversion that McLean County put into place during the early 2000s. Through communication, collaboration and the cooperation of everyone involved, McLean County was finally able to issue a single bill in 2005 to avoid the costly and antiquated method of accelerated billing," said McLean County Treasurer Rebecca McNeil.

Kahman has been McLean County Supervisor of Assessments since 1998, having previously served as Chief Deputy for the Deerfield Township Assessor (Lake County), Assistant Chief Deputy for the Addison Township Assessor (DuPage County), and Chief Deputy for Libertyville Township Assessor. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin. He has been awarded the Illinois Property Tax Assessment institute's designation of Certified Illinois Assessing Officer Master (CIAO-M) and the International Association of Assessing Officers

designation of Assessment Administration Specialist (AAS). Additionally, Bob has served for many years as an instructor with the Illinois Property Assessment Institute, teaching both basic courses to prospective assessors and advanced topics to current ones.

Kahman is actively involved in his community church by volunteering to help with dinners and taking part in men's fellowship and Bible study. Bob volunteers with the McLean County Humane Society and helps with everything from walking dogs, building kennels, and occasionally fostering. Kahman and his wife Jane have five daughters: Roseanne, Elizabeth, Mary, Emma, and Kelly.



McLean County Supervisor of Assessments Robert T. Kahman addresses the banquet attendees after being named the 2021 County Official of the Year; looking on are (from left) Kahman's wife Jane Kahman, IACO President Bobbi Rairden, and McLean County Treasurer Rebecca McNeil.

Photo credit: Curt Newport, Boone County Treasurer



Bob and Jane Kahman with 4 of their 5 daughters.



Legislative Committee Update

**Mark Armstrong, Legislative Chair
Kane County Assessor**



The Legislative Committee of the Illinois Association of County Officials is beginning work on the 2022 legislative year, which will (again) be an unusual session. The most unusual feature of 2022 is not COVID-related precautions, but a very front-loaded schedule.

Due to the change in the primary election date from March to June, the legislative session will begin earlier, end earlier, and run more quickly than in years past: both chambers are scheduled to convene on January 4 and adjourn on April 8, the latter being 53 days earlier than the typical May 31 deadline.

Accordingly, the IACO Legislative Committee is meeting earlier than normal (convening before Christmas) to begin its work for the year. The Committee is made up of the legislative chairs of each of our affiliate organizations:

- Assessment Officers
- Auditors
- Clerks and Recorders
- Coroners and Medical Examiners
- County Board Members
- Court Clerks
- Regional Superintendents of Schools
- Treasurers
- Veterans Assistance Commissioners

The Committee is assisted in its work by each affiliate president as well as each affiliate's contract lobbyist. The Committee meets by video conference before and during each year's legislative session to mutually support the legislative goals of affiliate organizations. The Committee also offers a legislative session at the IACO Spring Conference; the 2021 Legislative Breakfast featured Representatives and Senators from both caucuses answering questions from the County Officials in attendance.

IACO affiliate members who would like more information on the legislative agendas of their affiliate organizations should contact their affiliate's legislative Chair. For more information about the IACO Legislative Committee, contact IACO Legislative Chairman Mark Armstrong.

The IACO Legislative Committee held their most recent meeting via Zoom on December 21, 2021. The meeting was led by the Legislative Chair, Mark Armstrong and attended by Bobbi Rairden (IACO President) as well as representatives from the following IACO affiliate organizations: Assessment Officers, Clerks and Recorders, County Board Members, Court Clerks, and Treasurers.

Each affiliate organization gave a report on their legislative agendas for 2022. The next Legislative Committee Meeting will be Monday, January 31, 2022 via Zoom.

IACO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Kirby Ballard
Greene County Treasurer

Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk

Andrea Chasteen
Will County Circuit Clerk

Tony Cox
Gallatin County Coroner

Jennifer Gomric Minton
St. Clair County Assessor

Lincoln C. Hobson
Tazewell County Circuit Clerk

L. Scott Schwerer
McDonough County Board Member

Andrew Tangen
Lake County
Veterans Assistance Commissioner

Jessica Thomas
Peoria County Auditor

Shawn Walsh
Will County
Regional Superintendent of Schools

Mark Armstrong, Chairman
Kane County Supervisor of Assessments

Bobbi Rairden, IACO President
Douglas County Treasurer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

2022 IACO Spring Conference
May 11-13, 2022 (Wed – Fri)
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

2022 IACO Fall Conference
November 21-23, 2022 (Mon. – Wed.)
Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel &
Conf. Center - Uptown Normal, IL

2022 Spring Conference Online Registration opens February 1st at: www.iaconline.org



Student “Kick-Off” Scholarship

- ✓ Do you have a child or grandchild graduating from High School in 2022 or graduated in 2021?
- ✓ Has your High School graduate selected a college or university or technical school?
- ✓ Is your student prepared for the cost of college level textbooks and other supplies?
- ✓ Is your student one of tens of thousands putting all their faith in a handful of “Pie in the Sky” full ride scholarship’s or education grants?
- ✓ Are you a County Assessor, Auditor, Circuit Clerk, Coroner, County Clerk or Recorder, Regional Superintendent, Treasurer, County Board Member, or Superintendent of a Veterans Assistance Commission?

Guess what? The IACO can help!

If your student is entering a 2- or 4- year college or technical school in the Fall, your membership to IACO qualifies your child or grandchild to apply for a \$500 or \$1000 scholarship. With the scholarship limited to members of an IACO Affiliate organization means your student will not be competing against thousands of other hopeful students.

Let your IACO membership help your aspiring college student and encourage him / her to apply today.

Refer to the application (*page 10 of this newsletter*) for details.

Completed applications must be received by April 8, 2022

IACO Scholarship Application 2022

For the Fall of 2022 IACO will award the following scholarships:

- two \$1,000 Scholarships to 2 different students attending a four-year college
- two \$500 Scholarships to 2 different students attending a two-year college
- two \$500 scholarships to 2 students attending one- or two-year technical school

Eligibility Criteria: High School Graduate by June of 2021 or 2022. (Scholarship year 2022). Only family members (Child or Grandchild) of elected or appointed Illinois County Officials (currently employed or retired) that are active dues paying members of one of the IACO Affiliate Organizations.

Deadline: **Application MUST be received by April 8, 2022.**

Application Form: Complete the Application Form

The sponsor is the active dues paying member of one of the affiliated organizations of the Illinois Assn. of County Officials, *(either currently employed or retired)*. This may be either a parent or grandparent of the applicant.

Attachment I: **Applicant's statement** ~ Describe in 500 words or less how this scholarship would help you to achieve your goals

Attachment II: **A resume** ~ Including an Official High School Transcript of grades, GPA, major award, organizations and activities, and at least one letter of support from a teacher or principal

Attachment III: **A wallet size photograph – can be emailed to LePenske@devnetinc.com**

Return to: Scott LePenske
DEVNET
2254 Oakland Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178
Send your completed application in .pdf form
via email to: LePenske@devnetinc.com



**Application
Deadline:
April 8, 2022**

The Criteria for Selection shall be based on the following:

- a. Scholastic ability
- b. Need
- c. Leadership and activity

Special Instructions regarding need: In the space provided on the application briefly include any circumstances which may be considered such as other children in college, medical costs, etc.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

High School Attended: _____

Date Graduated (or expect to graduate): _____ GPA: _____ GP Scale: (4.0 or 5.0)

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

College, University or Technical School you plan to attend: _____

1-Year Technical School 2-Year College or Technical School 4-School. Have you been accepted? _____

Degree or course of technical training you plan to pursue this fall: _____

What is your current career choice? _____

Have you previously applied for a scholarship from IACO? Yes No

List any other scholarships for which you are a candidate: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

This section is to be completed by the Parent or Grandparent who is a member of IACO.

Sponsor's Name*: _____ Title: _____

Sponsor's County: _____ Sponsor's Affiliate Organization: _____

**Sponsor must be a current member of one of the IACO Affiliate Organizations, current with his/her dues*

Relationship to Applicant: _____

State reasons why you think the applicant merits consideration to receive a scholarship from IACO. If necessary, you may attach additional documentation. _____

Have you ever applied for an IACO scholarship for this or any other family member? Yes No

If yes, did the applicant receive a scholarship from IACO? (Give details): _____

List any circumstances regarding need which should be considered: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____