

Illinois Association of County Officials

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

SUMMER 2021 www.iacoonline.org

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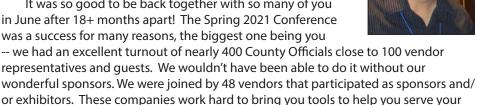
IL Association of County Officials P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296 www.iacoonline.org

Spring Conference Recap

counties as effectively as possible.

Michael A. Iwanicki, Superintendent **Veterans Assistance Commission - McHenry County**

It was so good to be back together with so many of you in June after 18+ months apart! The Spring 2021 Conference was a success for many reasons, the biggest one being you



The conference started with a day full of relevant educational sessions. You heard from Emily Swenson Brock, director of the Government Finance Officers Association, who joined us remotely to get into the nitty gritty of what the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) could mean for your counties. ARPA provides \$350 billion dollars in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to remedy the mismatch between rising costs and falling revenues. Emily's discussion focused on the guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding could support and answering specific questions that you had about putting these federal dollars to work in your county. ARPA will be featured again at the Fall IACO Conference in November, so plan to join us to learn more about what the future of ARPA will look like in your governments. After lunch, Stan Gibson joined us to give an inspiring talk about how to reclaim energy, purpose, and intention in your work life by managing your most important asset-YOU! Our afternoon ended with a sessions with Donna Rogers (MEd, SPHR, SHRM-SCP) about how to minimize the risk of complaints surrounding vaccine bullying and what protections are in place to support a healthy workplace culture for everyone--regardless of individual opinions on vaccines.

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IACO 2021 FALL Conference:

November 17-19, 2021

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center Uptown Normal, IL

Online Conference Registration is open at www.iacoonline.org

Spring Conference Recap

Continued from page 1

With the help of our Monday night Street Party Sponsors, we let loose a little and partied at the top of the Wyndham! The food and beverages were flowing thanks to our generous Sponsors. Vendors gave out some great door prizes and FunDMC had everyone up late dancing and singing along! Here is a full list of the people who made that party possible:

Food Sponsor:

Devnet

Band Sponsor:

Computer Information Concepts (CIC)

Frozen Beverage Sponsors:

Credit Collection Partners Court Money

Keg Sponsor:

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Schneider Geospatial
Kofile
Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund
FIDLAR Technologies

On Tuesday, attendees met with their affiliate groups and spent time learning and sharing ideas from colleagues in their individual field. We ended the day with the President's Banquet where we had a memorial for those we have lost in the last 18 months and congratulated Holly Lemons as the 2020 recipient of the County Official of the Year!

Wednesday morning we ended our time together with a legislative breakfast that was organized by IACO Legislative Chair, Mark Armstrong. Mark shares an update in a separate article in this newsletter. WHEW! What a full, fun, and educational time we had together!

We aren't done for the year yet though--make sure to join us for the IACO Fall 2021 Conference at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Uptown Normal, Illinois from November 17-19 (Wednesday-Friday). "See You Soon!"

2021 Spring Conference

Platinum Level Sponsor:



Gold Level Sponsor:

Clear Ballot Group, Inc.
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Message from the President-Elect

Bobbi Murray Rairden Douglas County Treasurer

It was so fun to see faces in June! We had a fabulous turnout for spring conference. We have been busy planning for the fall conference and beyond. ARPA and all of its issues will continue to be a hot topic of conversation at all of our conferences for the next several years. Human resource issues are always relevant. Please let the IACO Board know if you have additional ideas/ needs going forward for education for our members. Contact your affiliate representative on the IACO Board or the Board directly. Chances are you are not the only one with questions and/or concerns about a topic. We are truly all about educating you, our members, to keep you current and knowledgeable. We are all in this together. We are encouraging EVERY affiliate to submit a nomination for County Official of the Year 2021. You can find the application for the award in this newsletter. Read over the application, we have done a little tweaking on the requirements. We have an extraordinary number of overachievers in our group. Sing their praises! **We look forward to seeing you in Normal!**

2020 County Official of the Year Recipient

Holly Lemons - Montgomery County Circuit Clerk

Even though we did not have the opportunity to gather together in 2020, life did not slow down for you or your offices. In fact, in many cases, the pandemic only added to the complexity of what each of you do for your constituents, and we would have been remiss to go without honoring someone with the title of 2020 County Official of the Year! This year, that honor went



to **Holly Lemons, Montgomery County Circuit Clerk**. We are all aware of the many unexpected pivots that had to happen in 2020 to keep our offices not only functioning, but serving the people and communities that put their trust in us by choosing us to hold office. In the midst of such a difficult year, Holly stood out as someone who was able to take the challenges she faced in stride while still maintaining the respect and admiration of her family, colleagues, and constituents.

Holly received recommendations from everyone from family members, to colleagues, to vendors and there were many themes that were repeated throughout the nominations. She is a leader in adopting cutting edge technology. One recommendation called her the "epitome of modernization" and praised her ability to make her office "as paperless as possible…to the greatest extent allowed by rule"— a task that, as you can imagine, helped enormously in light of lock-downs and quarantines.

In addition to the work she has done with her local office, Holly has held many titles in her professional associations, including Immediate Past President of the Illinois Association of Court Clerks, Chair of the Illinois Judicial College Circuit Court Clerk's Education Committee and Co-Chair of the Legislative committee, among others. Holly has held her current office for 12 years and worked in county government for at least 15! She loves to support local businesses and spend time with her four daughters. Her friends and colleagues called her encouraging, reliable, kind, and welcoming. Holly is an excellent example, both at work and at home, of the heart of the County Official of the Year Award! If you know Holly, make sure you congratulate her on the well-deserved honor and thank her for her service!

Take some time to think of who in your office or affiliate organization, like Holly, embodies the spirit of the County Official of the Year Award because we will be looking for nominations for the 2021 award in the weeks leading up to the Fall Conference (November 17-19 in Normal, IL!)

IACO County Official of the Year Nominations

Since the 2020 Conferences were cancelled, we decided to award two County Official of the Year awards in 2021. The 2020 County Official of the Year award was presented to Holly Lemons at Spring Conference (see separate article). So, now it is time to make your nominations for the 2021 IACO County Official of the Year! As Bobbi mentioned in her message, we have an some extraordinary county officials, so we would love to have a nominee from every affiliate!

The winner will be awarded at the 2021 Fall Conference, so get started on your submissions! November 1st is the deadline for application. The application can be found on the IACO Website at www.iacoonline. org or on pages 8 & 9 of this newsletter.

IACO Scholarshp Fund

It seems as if COVID-19 left nothing untouched, but after postponing our Scholarship program for 2021, we have decided to expand it moving forward!

We invite you and your affiliates to join with us to raise money for the scholarship fund by bringing an item to donate to the Silent Auction! AND, by coming prepared to participate by bidding on the items! There will be something for everyone's pocket-book!

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Welcome to Uptown Normal

Rebecca C. McNeil McLean County Treasurer & IACO 2021 Board of Directors Secretary / Treasurer

The IACO Fall Conference is right around the corner in my hometown of Normal. This is the first IACO conference that has been held in McLean County and I hope you are looking forward to your stay November 17th - 19th. The Town of Normal is situated in McLean County right alongside Bloomington at the point where interstates 55, 74 and 39 intersect. The location is ideal and easy to get to for anyone, whether traveling by auto, bus, Amtrak Train, or air. The Marriott Hotel & Conference Center is a beautiful 9 story hotel with a restaurant, bar, pool, fitness center and concierge service. The hotel is located right between Illinois State University and Uptown Normal, which is a beautiful shopping area we like to spotlight.

Uptown Normal is a safe and unique area that you can conveniently walk to after a long day of conference education sessions. The area has experienced a significant transformation during the past several years and is now a place for everyone! It is so easy to spend a few hours or even an entire afternoon discovering the district's wide range of boutiques, restaurants, bars, and specialty shops. Looking for unique one-of-akind shops? A few of my absolute favorite places are Apricot Lane, the Garlic Press, and Uptown Gifts Boutique. Looking for Illinois State University swag? Alamo II and Campustown are super popular with students and alumni looking for that perfect ISU fall sweatshirt. Afterward, you may want to enjoy some lunch or dinner at Medici's, DP Dough, Pub II, or

Firehouse Pizza. Then, make sure to stop in for some dessert at Insomnia Cookies or Theo's Microcreamery. We all know the aroma of fresh baked cookies and homemade ice cream is hard to resist. And if you are in the mood to just relax - pull up a chair at Coffee Hound, Starbucks or Stave Wine Bar. These are wonderful places to meet with a small group, catch up on emails, or just sit outside and watch the world pass by.

The Uptown area is highlighted by the Children's Discovery Museum for those with children or grandchildren that are coming along. You may even want to extend your visit or come back another time once you see how inviting it looks. I have spent countless hours in the museum with my own daughters as they were growing up. The Children's Discovery Museum inspires the love of learning through the power of play by providing hands-on exhibits, classes and programs that actively engage the visitor in experiences that stimulate imagination, curiosity, and wonder. This is also the perfect place to stop in and do some early Christmas shopping. The Museum Store is jam-packed with educational books, toys, puzzles, games, gadgets and gizmos galore!

This November is going to be an exciting time. I hope you will have an opportunity to get out and visit the town while you are here. I am 100% confident you won't be disappointed. To learn more about the area go to www.uptownnormal.com or www.visitbn.org.

Safe travels!







Legislative Breakfast Recap

Mark Armstrong, Legislative Chair Kane County Assessor



One of the highlights of the 2021 IACO Spring Conference was the inaugural IACO Legislative Breakfast. Conference participants were in person by Senator Steve McClure (R-Sangamon) and Representatives Dan Caulkins (R-Macon), Tom Demmer (R-Lee), and Brad Halbrook (R-Shelby). Additionally, Senators Senator Don DeWitte (R-Kane), Senator Craig Wilcox (R-McHenry) and Representative Sam Yingling (D-Lake) appeared via videoconference. The Breakfast was moderated by IACO Legislative Chairman Mark Armstrong.

More than 150 County Officials asked a variety of questions about new legislative initiatives, changing local government responsibilities, and unfunded mandates. Each of the legislators gave their perspective on the topics, and offered suggestions about communicating with legislators both in their districts as well as in Springfield.

At the conclusion of the breakfast, attendees were able to mingle with the legislators and ask a few questions one-on-one. The IAOC Legislative Committee is grateful for all who worked to make our inaugural Legislative Breakfast a success.

Rep. Halbrook, Rep. Caulkins, Rep. Demmer, and Sen. McClure answer questions from the conference participants.



County officials listen to the response of Sen. DeWitte, Sen. Wilcox, and Rep. Yingling via a videoconference connection.

IACO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mark Armstrong, Chairman Kane County Supervisor of Assessments

Kirby Ballard *Greene County Treasurer*

Andrea ChasteenWill County Circuit Clerk

Tony Cox *Gallatin County Coroner*

Gretchen DeJaynes *McDonough County Clerk*

Jennifer Gomric Minton St. Clair County Assessor

Holly Lemons Montgomery 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

Michael Iwanicki, IACO President
McHenry County
Veterans Assistance Commissioner

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OFFICIAL IACO 2021 FALLCONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

November 17-19, 2021 (Wed – Fri) Marriott Hotel Bloomington Normal, IL

Attendee Full Name:					
	(if different):			MEAL .	TICKETS:
Title/Office (e.g. Coroner/Auditor)					whether or not you in the following meals.
County/Jurisdiction (e.g. Lee County):				There is no additional cost for these events, however, we need accurate head counts.	
Address:					□Yes □No □Unsure □Yes □No □Unsure
				Banquet:	□Yes □No □Unsure □Yes □No □Unsure
				Friday: Breakfast Buffet:	□Yes □No □Unsure
Affiliate Orga		ONE IS REQUIRED TO	REGISTER FOR THE CONFE		
□ Auditor□ Board of Review□ Coroner	□ County Board Member□ County Clerk / Recorder□ County Engineer	Election Commission	n 🔲 State's Attorney	Veterans A	Assistance Commission ficial
Но	tel Reservation	s:	Payment Information: 1	he Conference Rea	istration Fee is \$195 .

YOUARERESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. Reservations can be made at the Marriott Hotel Bloomington/Normal by visiting: https://tinyurl.com/w2fyvt69. Follow the steps to create your hotel reservations online. I do not recommend calling the hotel to make reservations. Often, you get forwarded to the central reservation line and they do not always have (or give) accurate information. If you need to call the hotel, call 309-862-9000 and ask for guest room reservations. The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number when you make your reservation. The group rate is \$96.00 plus tax. Self-Parking is complimentary for those staying at the hotel.

The hotel block expires at midnight on October 26, 2021.

Reservations made and not cancelled 24 Hours prior to 4:00 pm day of will be billed for the first night's room and tax and the remaining nights reserved will be cancelled.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS MAKING A RESERVATION (or are told they're sold out), contact Tamiko Kinkade via email at: **tkcps@comcast.net** and include the nights you need and the number of rooms you need.

How to Register for the Conference:

On-line Registration is available at **www.iacoonline.org**. Or, you can mail your registration form with payment. The early-bird registration deadline is November 5.

Cancellation Policy: Conference registrations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be made in writing on or before November 10 to receive a refund. All refunds (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made via a check mailed to the attendee after the conference. Cancellations should be sent to the Conference Registrar at the address listed below or e-mail to tkcps@comcast. net or fax to (217) 529-7178.

but register before Nov. 10 and receive the Early Bird Rate of \$180. **Early Bird** After Nov. 5 ☐ Full Conference Registration County Official/Deputy \$180 \$195 ☐ WEDNESDAY Only (Official/Deputy)* \$95 \$115 ☐ THURSDAY Only (Official/Deputy)* \$95 \$115 ☐ Spouse/Guest or Retired Official** \$75 \$95 Spouse Name: Total enclosed: ☐ Enclosed is a check for my registration ☐ Please apply the funds paid for the 2020 Spring Conference ☐ Please charge my credit card for registration Card Type: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card Number:____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: ____ Billing Zip: ____ Name on Card: Signature:

*The One-Day Only Registration includes ONE day's activities (Wed. or Thurs.), NOT a combination of the two! It is critical that everyone attending the conference register and pay a registration fee. Please register everyone from your office that is attending.

**The Spouse/Guest Fee DOES NOT apply to individuals employed by county offices. All county employees must register.

Illinois Association of County Officials

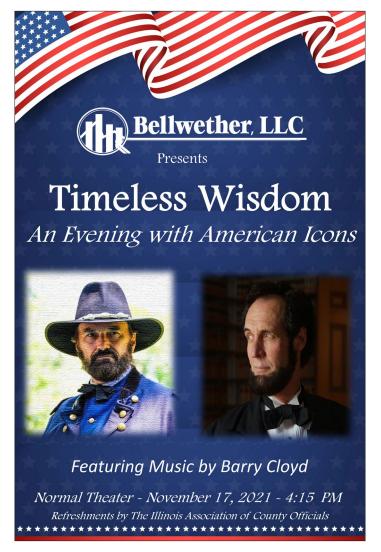
Attn: Tamiko Kinkade, Administrator - P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

Phone: (217) 585-9065 Fax: (217) 529-7178

IACO Fall Conference

November 17-19, 2021

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Uptown Normal, IL



At-a-Glance Tentative Conference Agenda

_					
Tuesday, November	16				
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration Open				
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Exhibit Booth Set-up				
5:00 pm	IACO Board Meeting - Affiliate Presidents are encouraged to attend				
Wednesday, November 17					
7:30 am	Registration Open / Coffee & Breakfast				
6:30 am – 7:30 am	Exhibit Booth Set-up				
7:30 am – 4:15 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / Coffee & Breakfast				
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Opening Session				
9:00 am – 11:45	Education Session(s)				
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	FREE LUNCH IN EXHIBIT HALL				
1:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Education Session(s)				
Doors Open 4:15 pm (show starts 4:30) – 7:00 pm	Timeless Wisdom: An Evening with American Icons - Featuring music by Barry Cloyd Presented by: Bellwether, LLC				
Thursday, Novembe	r 18				
7:30 am	Registration Open / Coffee & Breakfast				
7:30 am - 1:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / Coffee & Breakfast				
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Affiliate Organization Meetings				
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	FREE LUNCH IN EXHIBIT HALL				
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm	President's Reception / Silent Auction				
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	President's Banquet / IACO Service Awards				
Friday, November 19					
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Closing Breakfast				

Online Conference Registration is open at www.iacoonline.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FUTURE IACO CONFERENCES:

2021 IACO Fall Conference – November 17-19, 2021 (Wednesday – Friday) Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Uptown Normal, IL

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

2022 IACO Fall Conference – November 21-23, 2022 (Monday – Wednesday) Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Uptown Normal, IL

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IACO 2021 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: 4:30pm on Monday, November 1, 2021

Previous Winners

_	
1990	Terry Desmond
	County Clerk
1991	Chris Martin
	Treasurer
1992	Nelson Hagnauer
	County Board
1993	Bonnie Barton
	Sup. of Assessment
1994	John Novak
	Treasurer
1995	Bobby Myers
	Treasurer
1996	Steve Sonnemaker
	Auditor
1997	Barbara Gross
	County Clerk
1998	Lynn Reed
	Coroner
1999	Shirley Booker
	Treasurer
2000	Becky Kramer
	County Clerk
2001	Nancy Krumwiede
	Treasurer
2002	Bill Underwood
	Coroner
2003	Tom Ross
	Auditor
2004	Joel Kegan
	Circuit Clerk
2005	Kirby Ballard
	Treasurer
2006	Betty Coffrin
	Clerk/Recorder
2007	Tony Cox
	Coroner
2008	Ron White
	County Board
2009	Jeff Simpson
	Sup. of Assessment
2010	Lindi Kernan
	Sun of Assessment

2011

2014

2017

2018

2019

2020

Bruce Troutman

Clerk/Recorder

Wendy Rverson

Bruce Clark

County Clerk

Circuit Clerk

Cindy Braden

Circuit Clerk

Tom Cavanagh County Treasurer

Mark Armstrong

Holly Lemons

Circuit Clerk

Sup. of Assessment

Sup. of Assessment

2012 Victoria J. Harper County Treasurer

2013 Dave Dobill

2016 Gina Noe

County Treasurer

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. This form is intended to facilitate the selection process by providing biographical information of each candidate. All nomination forms must be received by the deadline in order to be considered.

Purpose and Criteria: The purpose of the Illinois Association of County Officials' County Official of the Year Award is to recognize 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. This distinction will be made each year to one person representative of the high ideals embraced by the Illinois Association of County Officials, (IACO).

Eligibility: Any elected or appointed official or employee of a IACO member county is eligible. Current members of the IACO Board of Directors are ineligible to receive the award.

Award: The results will be kept secret until the Fall Conference. At the Fall Banquet, the award will be presented to one individual who has made significant contributions through their service.

Nominator Responsibility: In most instances nominations will come from the nominees affiliate organization. The nominator is expected to ensure that the nominee is at the Fall Conference Banquet to receive the award. It is not however required that the nomination come from the nominees affiliate organization. The Veterans for instance may nominate a candidate from the Coroner's, but such a nomination would require considerable research by the Veterans to understand the position of Coroner and prepare a nomination that can compete with other nominees. It would be better for the Veterans to contact the Coroners and seek support for the potential nominee.

Selection Process: The selection of the County Official of the Year is a difficult process – due in large part because of the high quality of the candidates. Our overall goal is to establish a process that results in a fair selection with as minimal bias as possible. The members of the committee all represent an affiliate organization – and it is natural that we would support the individual nominated from our own affiliate – if for no other reason than we are most familiar with the service and dedication of that individual. So our goal was to minimize that bias to the extent possible and streamline the application process.

Here is the selection process that we have used since 2009.

- 1) Any currently serving county official (at the time of nomination) will be considered for the award. Individuals that have resigned or retired earlier in the year are not eligible. (The Board noted the IACO President can at any time recognize an individual with a "President's Award".)
- 2) To minimize the inherent bias of committee members (supporting the candidate from their own affiliate organization) the Board approved a selection process currently being used by another national organization:
 - a) Each IACO Awards Committee member is responsible for selecting a "judge" from outside the IACO membership, such as a local judge, state official, or community leader. Contact information for the judge is forwarded to the Awards Committee Chairperson.
 - b) Nominations are forwarded to these judges directly from the Awards Committee Chairperson along with a scoring sheet. (Committee members do not receive the applications.)
 - c) Judges rank the nominees in several categories based on the merits of the application and forward the scoring sheets back to the Chairperson.
 - d) The Chairperson tallies the scores and announces the winner at the Fall IACO Conference.
- 3) Use of a standardized application
- 4) Use of a standardized scoring sheet for use by judges

The official nomination form and supporting materials must be received by 4:30pm on Monday, November 1, 2021



IACO 2021 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: 4:30pm on Monday, November 1, 2021

The Illinois Association of County Officials "County Official of the Year" Award is given annually to individuals who have contributed to the betterment of county government in a manner above and beyond what is expected in their everyday duties. It is not a longevity award, but recognition of significant contributions to their county government and county government in general.

Sponsor/Contact Person:		
Name:	Position:	
Affiliate:	Title (within affiliate organization):	
Work Phone:	Email Address:	
County Official of the Year Candida	te:	
Name:		
Current Position (Office & County):		
Number of years the candidate has w	orked in county government: Number of years in current position:	
Has this candidate been nominated for	or this award in the past? If so, when?	

Please attach a biography of the Candidate (limit up to 1000 words) written by someone **other than the candidate** which demonstrates his/her overall professionalism and dedication to county government, specifically highlighting the following:

- 1. Service and leadership in their respective county, including improvements or efficiencies in the operation of nominees own office or local jurisdiction;
- Service and leadership within their respective affiliate organization, including positions held within the affiliate organization, and years of participation;
- 3. Service and leadership within their communities;
- 4. Dedication to continuing education;
- 5. Service and leadership with other affiliate organizations, including IACO.
- 6. Letters from peers encouraged.

This form is intended to facilitate the selection process by providing biographical information of each candidate. All nomination forms must be received by the deadline in order to be considered. The official nomination form and supporting materials must be received by 4:30pm on Monday, November 1, 2021 by mail, e-mail (pdf format only), or fax to:

Bobbi Rairden, Awards Committee Chair

Douglas County Treasurer PO Box 320, Tuscola, IL 61953 Phone: 217-253-4011; Fax: 217-253-2590 bobbi.rairden@douglascountyil.com