



ILLINOIS ENTERPRISE ZONE ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT:
MARK WILLIAMS
Economic Development Manager
City of Rockford

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CRAIG COIL
President/COO
The Development Consortium, Inc.

VICE-PRESIDENT:
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Director/President/Zone Administrator
Kankakee County Planning Dept. &
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County

SECRETARY:
NORA FESCO
Executive Director
North Central IL Council of Governments

TREASURER:
CATHY SCHLUCKEBIER
Community Development Planner
City of Quincy

MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS:
BETTY STEINERT
Enterprise Zone Administrator
Whiteside/Carroll County EZ
Jo/Carroll EZ

DCEO LIAISON:
BEN WILSON
Community Development Director
North Central IL Council of Governments

LEGISLATIVE:
JOHN THOMPSON
President/CEO/ Zone Administrator
Lee County EZ Administrative Office
Lee County Industrial Development
Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Industry

MARKETING/NEWSLETTER:
ERIC SCHAUSTER
Assistant Director of Economic
Development, Planning & Zoning
City of Belleville

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“THE ZONE”

IEZA NEWSLETTER 2015 , VOLUME I

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's been an honor to serve as President of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association (IEZA) for the past two years. This past year has been the most trying year for many of our Zone Administrators and Business Members. One that's been full of anxiety and stress; from the administrative changes in reporting; to the completion and submittal of new enterprise zone applications; to the new Enterprise Zone Board's review and highly anticipated approval or denial; and now the unexpected delay in the State Certification process.

IEZA continues to build relationships with State Agencies as they go through transition in leadership. The purpose being - together we can make the Enterprise Zone Program better. We received several comments from the spring conference attendees that new DCEO Director Jim Schultz's presentation was both refreshing and motivational. Refreshing in the sense that a DCEO Director took the time to connect with membership from a business-minded perspective; and motivational in a sense that we have reason to partner with DCEO—to improve our accounting and communication methodologies in order to gain and maintain the support of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Program. We look forward to having Director Schultz address our membership again at the Fall Conference Dinner in Rockford on October 15th.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Rockford for the Fall Conference, October 14th-16th. Based on member recommendations we will be providing a tour the afternoon of the 15th were you will get a chance to see the beginning stages of Rockford's transformation. We will stop at the new Rock Valley College Aviation Technology Center and the planned AAR Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Facility at the Chicago-Rockford International Airport. It's an example of education aligning with employment opportunities. It will provide a path and a choice for all populations including those in poverty an opportunity to get a two year certificate in aviation maintenance and walk across the street and get a job at MRO facility starting at \$50-\$55,000 a year salary. The project has a potential to create 1000 jobs. The tour will end up at the Prairie Street Brewhouse where you get a chance to unwind and experience first-hand a catalyst - mixed use redevelopment project on the Rock River. Other sessions will include our EZ 101 training, a discussion on legislative initiatives, case study on a redevelopment project, agency reports from IDOR and DCEO, and full day on Friday that will cover the upcoming Enterprise Zone Application process.

I want to thank the Enterprise Zone Board members for their patience and support they've given me this past year. We are a volunteer group that have full-time jobs and quite often we have to cover for each other when our daily work and life becomes heavy, so thank you for carrying me!



Governor Names EZ Review Board

Governor Bruce Rauner has appointed the final three members to the Enterprise Zone Review Board. Jovita Carranza, Lawrence W. Falbe, and Larry Ivory join Ex-Officio members Constance Beard, Director of the IL Dept. of Revenue and Jim Schultz, Director of DCEO on the board. The EZ Review Board is responsible for determining which applicants become new enterprise zones.



DCEO Director Jim Schultz delivers his keynote address at the spring IEZA conference.

Carranza is the Founder and President of The JRC Group, which provides business development services to businesses and non-governmental agencies. Falbe is an energy and environmental attorney with over 20 years of experience in planning and site selection. Ivory is currently President and CEO of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, and has a background in business and financial services.

By statute, the Governor appoints the board, which is comprised of the Director of IDOR, the Director of DCEO, a member from Cook County, a member from the “collar counties”, and a member from “downstate”.

DCEO staff score all applications and the appointed board review the applications and scoring. The board selected 49 new zones out of the pool of 66 applications. (See the list of newly approved zoned on page 3.)

[IEZA Calendar](#)

October 14-16: IEZA Fall Conference & Membership Meeting at the Rockford Holiday Inn,

December 31: Application deadline for second round of new zones.

Spring Survey Results

In April, the IEZA sent out a survey to zone administrators and business members. The survey covered topics such as IEZA membership benefits, the zone application process, and more. Survey results were shared at the spring conference and are available on the [IEZA website](#).

Of the 46 responses, over 78% said that the best benefit of the IEZA is zone administration training/education, followed by best management practices in zone administration (54%). Over 62% of zone administrators have more than seven years of experience in zone administration. Twenty-eight percent have only 1-3 years of experience administering an EZ.

More than 68% of respondents applied for one of the 49 possible new EZ in 2014. Of those, 82% utilized a consultant to prepare all or a portion of the application. Despite the use of a consultant, zone administrators, professional staff and administrative staff spent anywhere from 20 to 200+ work hours preparing applications for new zones.

The survey results will help the IEZA better understand how zones are functioning throughout the state of Illinois and how to better plan conferences and training. Thanks to all who participated in the spring survey. Be on the look out for the next survey later this year.



NEW ENTERPRISE ZONES APPROVED

On August 16th DCEO announced that the Enterprise Zone Review Board, appointed by Governor Rauner earlier this year, approved 49 new enterprise zones. Once certified by DCEO, the new zones will take effect on

January 1, 2016. Applications for the next round of new zones are due by December 31st.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

New Enterprise Zones Approved By Enterprise Zone Board:

Alexander/Pulaski	Harvard/Woodstock
Bedford Park	Hodgkins/McCook
Belleville	Kankakee County
Bensenville	Kankakee River Valley
Boone County	Loves Park/Machesney Park
Cal Sag	Macomb/Bushnell
Canton Fulton County	Madison County Discovery
Champaign City/County	Monmouth Warren County
Chicago I	Mt. Carmel/Wabash County
Chicago II	Mt. Vernon/Waltonville
Chicago III	Nashville/Washington County
Chicago IV	Northern Tazewell County
Chicago V	Ottawa Area
Cicero	Peoria Urban
Clinton County	Quincy/Adams
Danville	Riverbend
Decatur/Macon County	Rockford EZ 1
DeKalb County	Rockford I-90
Des Plaines River Valley	Southern Tazewell
Diamond	SW Madison County
Edgar County/Paris	Springfield/Sangamon County
Fairmont City/Caseyville	Streator Area
Fairview Heights	Urbana/Champaign County
Franklin Park	Will-Cook County
Galesburg	



IEZA Spring Conference Review



The IEZA 2015 Spring Conference was held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield on April 29-May 1. The more than 90 participants who attended the conference, the largest conference attendance in years, were treated to a wide variety of sessions.

The conference began with an EZ 101 session led by IEZA Board members Mike VanMill and Betty Steinert. Over 30 attendees took part in the session, which covered many introductory topics such as zone creation and expansion, sales tax certificates, and much more. It was the first EZ 101 session put on by IEZA in some time and it was well received by those in attendance.

Day two of the conference began with a welcome by IEZA President Mark Williams, followed by an IEZA membership meeting. Treasurer Cathy Schluckebier reported that the organization is on solid financial ground. Vice President Mike VanMill shared the results of the IEZA spring survey (see story on p. 2). After the membership meeting, Mark Denzler, VP & COO of the Illinois Manufacturer's Association discussed Governor Rauner's proposed "Turnaround Agenda" and how it might affect manufacturing and job creation in Illinois. Attorney David Streicker presided over the "Legal Grab Bag" session, which saw many questions related to the zone applications, the application process, etc.

DCEO Director Jim Schultz gave his keynote address and Q & A session over lunch. Director Schultz covered a variety of topics, including Governor Rauner's plan to create a public-private partnership to administer economic development for the State of Illinois.

The afternoon sessions began with Sherrie Taylor and Norman Walzer of Northern Illinois University (NIU) presented on the NIU website enterprisezonesillinois.com that is available to generate data for new zone applications. Then, a panel discussion on Illinois Competitiveness was led by site selection consultant Tracey Hyatt Bosman, Managing Director of Biggins Lacy Shapiro & Co. and Jeff Bennett, Founder and President of real estate and marketing company Bennett Commercial, LLC.

Day three welcomed Craig Coil, Principal & COO of The Development Consortium, and IEZA Past President, as he discussed lessons learned through the zone application process. The session was a review of the application process for those who applied in 2014 and a preview for those applying in 2015 and beyond. The 2015 spring conference concluded with IDOR General Counsel Michael Pieczonka and his very informative presentation on the zone reporting process.



The Power Point presentations from the conference are available on the IEZA website.



2015 Business Membership Dues

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Professional Member/Consultant/Local Government/Non E-Zone
Communities/Attorneys/CPA's..... \$200
- Associate Member - Business with 75 or fewer employees..... \$250
- Patron Member - Business with 76 to 200 employees..... \$500
- Sustaining Member - Business with over 200 employees..... \$750

Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Our company is located in the _____ Enterprise Zone

Checks should be made payable to: Illinois Enterprise Zone Association

IEZA's Federal Emp. ID: #36-3569912

Please mail to: Betty J. Steinert

Whiteside County Development

200 East Knox Street

Morrison, IL 61270

For Questions: 815-772-5175

bsteinert@whiteside.org



2015 ZONE ADMINISTRATORS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Zone Administrators Membership Fee

Single Zone \$200 ____ After March 1, 2015 Dues are \$250 ____

Two or more Zones \$250 ____ After March 1, 2015 Dues are \$300 ____

Enterprise Zone Name: _____

EZ Area includes: _____

Name of Official Zone Administrator: _____

Contact name if different than above: _____

Administrator/Contact Title: _____

Agency Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Checks should be made payable to: **Illinois Enterprise Zone Association**

IEZA's Federal Emp. ID No. #36-3569912

Please mail to: Emily McConville, City of Mendota

800 Washington Street

Mendota, IL 61342

Phone: 815-539-7459

EMcConville@MendotaCity.com



NIU Website Offers Assistance for New EZ Applicants

The Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University (NIU) has created a new website to assist potential EZ applicants. Applicants can log-in and obtain data by identifying the Census Tract for their area or provide a shape file. Information related to Criterion 2, 7, 8, and 10 of the EZ application can be obtained from the website.

The site also provides the eligibility criteria for the EZ applications, the EZ Act, administrative rules, a downloadable EZ application, sample ordinances, presentation materials, and much more. Please visit the NIU Center for Governmental Studies site at www.enterprisezonesillinois.com for more information.



News & Notes

*IEZA board member Janice Kerin, Program Manager at St. Clair County Economic Development, has retired. The IEZA would like to thank Janice for her service and wish her the best in her retirement.

*Betty Steinert, EZ Administrator for Whiteside/Carroll County and Jo/Carroll enterprise zones, and IEZA board member, received the Carson DeJarnatt Economic Development Award from the Blackhawk Hills Regional council. The IEZA would also like to congratulate Betty on her retirement at the end of June and thank her for her service.

*IEZA board member John Thompson received the Distinguished Developer Award from the Illinois Development Council.

*Eric Schauster, IEZA Newsletter Chair, was promoted to Assistant Director of Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Department for the City of Belleville.

*Please send any news and/or updates to [Eric Schauster](mailto:Eric.Schauster@ieza.org) for inclusion in the IEZA newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE
DATE, IEZA FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14-16, 2015
HOLIDAY INN,
ROCKFORD, IL.**



Click [here](#) for conference brochure & registration materials.