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Illinois Bankers Association Names New Board Chair, Welcomes New Board Members

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) has elected a new Board Chair and named several new members to its Board of Directors, building on a strong reputation of leadership on behalf of banks across the state. The new Chair and Directors were officially elected and inducted at the IBA’s Annual Conference held in Springfield earlier this month.

“We are honored to have these industry leaders serve on our Board of Directors, where their skills and expertise will help build a stronger banking community for all,” said **Randy Hultgren, President and CEO of the Illinois Bankers Association**. “We thank them for their time and dedication, and we look forward to building on our successful record of advocacy on behalf of banks across Illinois. We’re excited our Board and association continues to make steady progress ensuring equitable representation across the banking industry.”

The new **Board Chair for the Illinois Bankers Association is Betsy Johnson of Solutions Bank**. Johnson began her banking career at Forreston State Bank, now known as Solutions Bank, where she was hired to assist former bank president Jeffrey Snyder. Now, 25 years later she is the President and CEO. Johnson is a Trustee for the Graduate School of Banking-Madison, Wisconsin, and she also serves on the Banker Advisory Board as a Chairman for 2022-23. Johnson became involved in the IBA in 2011 after attending her first IBA conference. Since then, she has served on numerous committees, joining the Board of Directors in 2017 and the Executive Committee in 2019.

Johnson resides in Forreston, Illinois, with her husband Tom of 37 years. They are blessed with two grown children and three grandchildren. She is actively involved in the community, having served on school foundation boards and is currently treasurer of her local Lions Club.

The new board members for the Illinois Bankers Association are:

Kara Austin (Murphy-Wall State Bank and Trust Company): Austin has 10 years of banking experience at Murphy-Wall State Bank and Trust Company. She has served as a teller, deposit operations clerk, and was recently promoted to Vice President. Her areas of specialty include Electronic Banking and ACH Operations.

Austin is a 2019 graduate of the IBA’s Future Leaders Alliance (FLA) Program. She has been a member of the FLA Board since 2019 and is currently serving as Vice Chair. She also serves as a member of the Illinois Bankers Education Services Board. Austin will serve in a non-voting capacity on the IBA Board, representing the FLA Class.

Gustavus Bahr (PNC Capital Markets): Bahr leads the Insurance team within the Financial Institutions Group and is a member of the PNC Capital Markets Group's leadership team. He joined PNC in 2002 and has been a dedicated banker to the financial services sector since 2003.

Bahr has a wide range of experience across the financial services sector including insurance companies, insurance brokers, asset managers, broker/dealers, leasing and finance companies, and financial technology companies. Within the broader Corporate & Institutional Bank, he also acts as Head of Healthcare Insurance Banking.

Peter J. Brummel (Grundy Bank): Brummel is Senior Vice President and Senior Lender at Grundy Bank. He has served the Illinois banking industry for over 35 years as both a commercial and agricultural lender. He has been actively involved with the IBA as well as the American Bankers Association. Brummel is a graduate of the Agricultural Lenders School and the Illinois Bankers School in Carbondale. He has served on the IBA's Agriculture Committee and Annual Conference Committee and is currently on the Illinois Bankers PAC Board of Directors.

Brummel is active in his community, serving on the Morris Hospital Foundation Board of Directors as well as the Grundy County Economic Development Council.

Rudy Gonzalez (CIBC): Gonzalez is Managing Director and Relationship Manager of CIBC's Community Development Group. Gonzalez has more than 20 years of commercial lending, risk management and community relations expertise. His current focus is to help small to mid-size businesses in underserved communities with access to working capital via CIBC's Entrepreneur Loan Program (ETP) for start-ups and newly formed businesses. He holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Illinois at Chicago and successfully completed the LaSalle Bank's Commercial Credit Training Program.

Gonzalez is passionate about supporting small businesses and community volunteering, serving as an active volunteer for the Goldman Sachs 10K Small Business Program, the Women's Business Development Center Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and other CIBC ETP partners. Rudy has also served as a member of the Board Trustees of the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Board of Directors of the Little Village Chamber of Commerce.

Michele Petrie (Village Bank & Trust): Petrie is the President of Village Bank & Trust, part of the Wintrust Community Banks family. She also serves as branch President of Wintrust Commercial Banking in Rockford. Michele has more than 27 years of Banking experience as well as consulting experience from owning her own business, Diversitel Consulting LLC. Petrie has served as Chairperson of the Board for the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Area Economic Development Council, Rockford Local Development Corporation, and Crusader Community Health Foundation and serves as a Board member of the Arlington Economic Alliance and Northwest Compass.

Petrie earned a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in history from Indiana University. She lives with her husband and three children in Arlington Heights, IL.

Brett Tiemann (INB, NA): Tiemann serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of INB, National Association and Illinois National Bancorp, Inc. headquartered in Springfield. INB was formed in Springfield in 1999 and serves the financial needs of businesses and individuals throughout central Illinois and St. Louis. Tiemann joined INB in January 2001 and is responsible for the Accounting and Financial Strategy, Loan Servicing operation, Internal Audit and Human Resource divisions. He also facilitates INB's enterprise risk management with direct involvement in the analysis of liquidity risk, interest rate risk, credit risk and capital planning.

Tiemann previously served as Chief Financial Officer of CDS Office Technologies. While at CDS he designed and executed financial strategies to support revenue growth from \$12 to \$60 million. Brett began his professional career with RSM, LLP in 1989, working as a member of the audit division and financial consulting division. Tiemann serves as a Director and past Board Chairman for the Illinois Real Estate Title Center. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL.

Daniel Wujek (State Bank of Cherry): Wujek is the President and CEO of State Bank of Cherry. Wujek began his banking career with the Granville National Bank. While at Granville, he attended Illinois Bankers School at Southern Illinois University. He recognizes former President and CEO of Granville National Bank Phil Carlson for serving as a mentor during his time there. After 23 years, Wujek moved on to Amcore Bank at the Mendota branch, where he learned about Central Credit. From there, he moved to North Central Bank working in the Ladd and Hennepin branches. He credits these career opportunities for developing his expertise in agriculture and commercial loan portfolio skills.

In 2016, Wujek was invited to join the State Bank of Cherry as an Executive Officer. He values having the opportunity to serve as a Community Banker in the Cherry community, where he lives with his wife Katie. Wujek has three children and three grandchildren.

In addition, Bethany Shaw Peoples National Bank was elevated to a voting member of the board, and Frank Pettaway of The Northern Trust was elected to the Executive Committee.

Bethany Shaw (Peoples National Bank): Shaw is the Head of Retail and Training for Peoples National Bank serving Southern Illinois and the St. Louis metro area. She previously served as the FLA representative on the IBA Board. Shaw has now been elevated to serve a full term on the board.

Frank Pettaway (The Northern Trust): Pettaway is the National Practice Lead for Northern Trust's Professional Services Group. In this role he manages and coordinates the efforts of experienced commercial bankers to deliver expertise and provide customized and creative financing solutions to professional services firms and their partners. Prior to joining The Northern Trust, Pettaway was a senior banker at Mid America Bank FSB, and a was a Middle Market banker at Fifth Third Bank. He attended North Central College and the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

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About the Illinois Bankers Association

The Illinois Bankers Association is the voice of Illinois' banking industry, dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry and the communities they serve. Founded in 1891, the IBA brings together state and national banks and savings banks employing more than 105,000 people in nearly 4,500 offices across the state. The IBA is proud of its diverse membership, serving all sizes of financial institutions from the smallest community bank in the state to the largest national bank in the country.