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Volume 50 • Issue 6

# Banknotes

## CBAI'S 2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Leading Us into  
the Next 50 Years*

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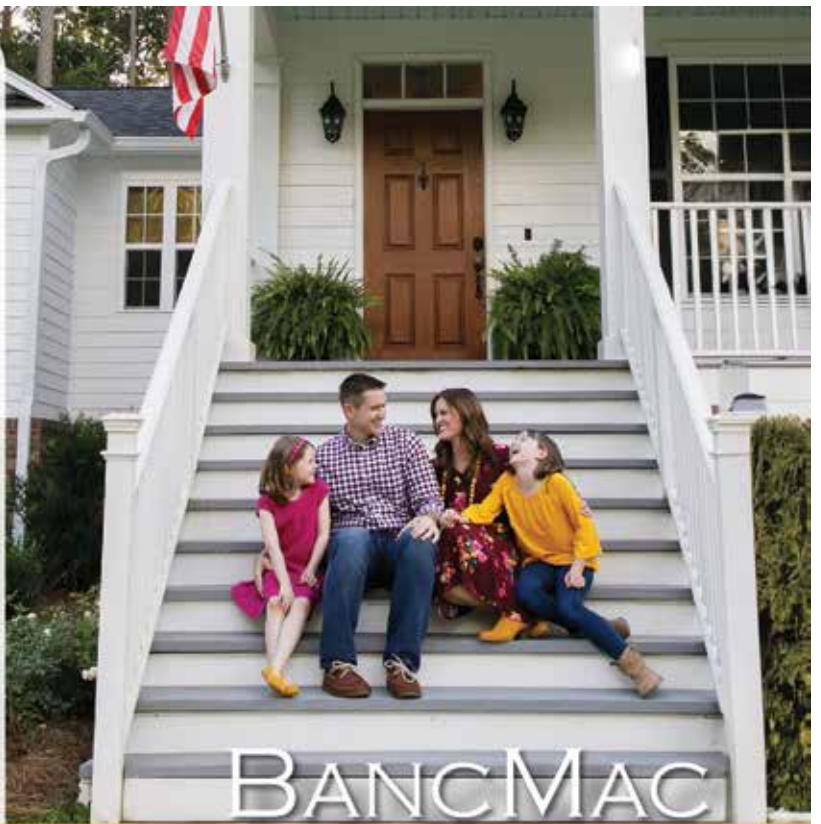
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**Personal:** Resides in Mokena with his wife, Phyllis

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*President, Flora Bank & Trust*

**Education:** Graduate (bachelor's), Columbia College, Columbia, MO; Graduate School of Banking, Madison, WI; Community Bankers School, Bloomington, IL

**Personal:** Resides in Flora with his wife, Dana; two sons, one daughter

#### CHAD MARTIN, SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN

*President and CEO, Goodfield State Bank*

**Education:** Graduate (bachelor's), Illinois State University, Normal; Community Bankers School, Bloomington, IL; Graduate School of Banking, Madison, WI

**Personal:** Resides in Roanoke with his wife, Brenda; four sons; one granddaughter

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**Education:** Arizona State University, Tempe and St. Xavier University, Chicago

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*President and CEO, Princeville State Bank*

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**Personal:** Resides in New Berlin with his wife, Sara; two daughters

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*President and CEO, State Bank, Waterloo*

**Education:** Graduate (bachelor's) Eastern Illinois University, Charleston; Community Bankers School, Bloomington, IL; ABA Commercial Lending School, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

**Personal:** Resides in Waterloo with his wife, Shelly

**MARY JO HOMAN, TREASURER**

*President, CEO and Director, First National Bank in Pinckneyville*

**Education:** Belleville Area College; Career Development Banking School, Champaign/Urbana

**Personal:** Resides in Chester with her husband, Kevin; one daughter, one granddaughter

**SHEILA BURCHAM, IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRWOMAN**

*Market President, Bradford National Bank, Irvington*

**Education:** Graduate (bachelor's), Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; The Bankers School, Champaign, IL; Graduate School of Banking, Madison, WI

**Personal:** Resides in Nashville with her husband, Matt; three daughters, four grandsons, one granddaughter

**KRAIG LOUNSBERRY, PRESIDENT**

*President, CBAI, Springfield*

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**Personal:** Resides in Pawnee with his wife, Debbie; one son, one daughter ■

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# LEADERSHIP ADDRESS — CBAI CHAIRWOMAN

*CBAI Chairwoman Sheila Burcham, Market President, Bradford National Bank, Irvington*



As you know, my term as your chairman concludes at the end of this month. To consider myself privileged to have served as the 50<sup>th</sup> chairman of CBAI would be an understatement. There is no bigger honor, in my opinion, than to serve your peers, and I'm very humbled to have had this opportunity. It has been a challenging but very rewarding year. I believe we accomplished a lot and managed to have some fun celebrating community banking.

Despite Kraig already doing so, and before I go any further, I feel it necessary to have Tracy McQuinn, her entire Education and Special Events staff, Melinda, Jenn and Tina, and all the CBAI staff, stand and be recognized. They put in tireless efforts to make this all come together and work. Trust me; the entire staff is involved in some way, shape or form. It's impressive. Thank you everyone for making this so successful on our behalf!

WOW! Look at all you community bankers out there — you look good! Thanks for being here for this very special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CBAI at our annual convention.

You know, they say don't blink. The year has gone by crazy fast — it seems like I was just up here accepting the chair position. It has been a wonderful, action-packed year for me, representing you and advocating on behalf of our industry in this position. I have loved every minute of my time as such.

This past year was another productive year for our professional and grassroots advocacy, although we did take a couple of hits as well. We continued to beat the drum with legislatures, regulators

and whoever would listen on the check fraud problem. We have been the tip of the spear on this issue for two years now, and we have continued to lobby federal regulators to hold the largest banks and credit unions accountable for their failures to know their customers and prohibit them from opening these fraudulent accounts. We made a lot of progress on this issue, working hand in hand with the ICBA Check Fraud Task Force, but there is still much more to do.

On the federal legislative front, we organized a coalition of Illinois ag-related groups to support the ACRE Act and lined up several Illinois members of Congress to support that legislation. We supported legislation that would restrict trigger leads. This practice borders on harassment for some of our customers, and we continue to lobby Congress to prohibit it. We also continued to push back on regulatory overreach, especially as it relates to overdrafts, personal financial data rights, and small-business data collection.

On the state level, we find ourselves playing more and more defense these days. Our GR team worked with the IDPFR to pass consumer and community-bank-friendly legislation regulating shared appreciation agreements after we were informed by some of our community bankers of the abuse of these instruments. The team did an excellent job pushing back on changes to medical debt reporting, a CRA racial disparity study, and junk fee bills. Unfortunately, an end-of-session surprise by the legislative leaders, governor and retail merchants had our GR team lobbying over Memorial Day weekend to oppose the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act that prohibits interchange of state sales tax and tips. Despite their tireless advocacy, that bill passed and became law, but our team continues to push back on this bad public policy. In August, the IBA and the Credit Union League joined together to file litigation challenging that law in federal district court, although for unknown reasons, the CBAI was excluded from joining the litigation. I want it to be known on an issue where we could have all stood together; CBAI was not included. Nevertheless, our organization will support their efforts and all efforts to overturn or repeal this misguided law.

In the past year, our education department saw more than 9,200 community bankers from the teller line to the C suite who attended seminars, webinars, forums, groups and other educational events. More than 50% of our member banks and 750 community bankers and friends of community bank-

ing attended one of the 11 2024 Group Meetings. That number might be slightly inflated because it counts me 11 times as I was given the opportunity and had the ability to attend every Group Meeting. By attending these Group Meetings, I was able to meet and exchange thoughts and ideas with CBAI members throughout Illinois. The first week, we started in Waterloo, then Effingham and finally, we went to Marion, where we were all forced to shelter in the basement because of a tornado just a mile away from the golf course. Then, it was on to Bloomington and Pontiac, all the way up to Lanark, where I was welcomed to the home of Robin and Jeff Saar and treated to a beautiful boat ride around Lake Carroll. Down to Galesburg, Jacksonville, up to Wrigley Field to see a Cardinal victory, and then on to Quincy with the final trek to Mattoon. It was a lot of miles and windshield time dodging floods, tornados and traffic, but the fellowship I was able to enjoy with community bankers, staff and our service partners was worth every minute.

I was also honored to address the Women in Banking Conference, the CDD Spring Conference and the Community Bankers School to honor those graduates. I attended the Capital Conference, C Conference, Call on Washington, the FedPac baseball game (to see another Cardinal win) and traveled to Vandalia for a legislative roundtable to taste some 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary bourbon. I also got to represent CBAI at ICBA Live, at the ICBA Spring Leadership meetings as a member of the Rural Ag Committee, and at the FHLBC Association and Leadership meetings.

I tried to write down key things I learned at some of these events and thought I might share some of these tidbits with you today.

- From Jack Kasel at the C Conference — It takes top-down commitment for bottom-up excitement. Great things do not happen in our comfort zone.
- Michael Berman from Ncontracts — Status Quo Must Go.
- We got to hear from Dave Fishwick of England. The movie Bank of Dave is based on his story. He has fought to open a bank in England for his small hometown. Every penny of profit goes back to charity. He shared there is no such thing as easy money — hard work will put you where good luck will find you. If a bank is too big to fail it is too big to exist. Fishwick's rules to live by:
  1. Never lose money.
  2. Never forget Rule #1.
  3. Never give up.
  4. Never, never give up!
- Lastly, one thing I have heard in my travels this year, specifically outside of Illinois, is that Illinois community bankers are just different — they are all like one big family. I was touched when hearing that because CBAI is just one big family of community bankers.

***“Advocacy was the initial reason CBAI was created, and 50 years later, it is still our driving force.”***

It was a busy year, a fun year, and I hate to see it end, but before I pass the gavel to our next chairman, I need to take a few minutes to recognize some people. First, I want to thank Bradford National Bank and its directors and officers for allowing me to take on this position, my family, and most importantly, my husband, Matt; thanks for your love and support and for going on the ride this past year with me. Thank you to all the CBAI staff — you make this job easy. Lastly, thank YOU for allowing me to represent you as your chair for CBAI — it has been a very special year and one I will never forget.

I'll conclude by saying that my many years in leadership have given me first-hand knowledge of all that CBAI does for our member banks, and IT IS impressive. The members of standing committees, the board and the staff all work together to deliver top-of-the-line scholarship opportunities, special events, education, advocacy and more. As you recall, in February 1974, five community bankers representing communities from all over Illinois filed paperwork at the Illinois Secretary of State to create the Independent Community Banks in Illinois. They knew then, just as we know now, that community banks need an independent, autonomous voice in Illinois and Washington, D.C., to survive and thrive. Fifty years later, CBAI lives that mission every day. Advocacy was the initial reason CBAI was created, and 50 years later, it is still our driving force.

CBAI and community banking will have both challenges and opportunities in the coming years, but I know our staff and leadership, led by Chairman-Elect Dave Stanton, will continue to meet those challenges and take advantage of those opportunities. However, just as it was community bankers who created this association 50 years ago, it is community bankers who hold the future of this great association. It will take all of you telling your story and the story of community banking loudly and proudly to our customers, regulators and legislators and fighting for our place in this industry. Working with the ICBA, we must continue to push the envelope in all we do, and if so, I am confident someone will be standing on this stage in 2074 talking about the community bankers who founded CBAI 100 years ago.

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of serving as your chairman. ■

## LEADERSHIP ADDRESS —

## CBAI CHAIRMAN-ELECT

CBAI Chairman-Elect David Stanton, President & CEO, PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet

**T**hank you, Sheila. What an outstanding year you have had. Your commitment to CBAI and community banking is unchallenged. Taking the time and energy to travel the state and attend every group meeting is just one example of the dedication you've shown to CBAI and community banking not only this past year but throughout your career. So, on behalf of CBAI membership and in appreciation of your service, it is my pleasure to present you with this outgoing chairman's award and a greater pleasure to call you my friend. Thank you for all you've done and all I know you will continue to do!

Good afternoon, everyone! Welcome again to our 50<sup>th</sup> annual CBAI convention in our state capital!

First, let me say what an honor and privilege it is to be in this place today. I thought Sheila had a tough act to follow in Doug Parrott, but talk about raising the bar even higher. Wow. I pledge to do my best to represent each of you, your bank and the community banking industry in the coming year.

My personal community banking journey spans more than 40 years. After receiving my degree in finance from DePaul University in Chicago, I began my career as a lender with Devon Bank. In the late 1980s, I moved to Beverly Bank, where I became chief lending officer. I then went on to become president of First National Bank of Wilmington, a wholly owned member of Beverly Bancorporation, Inc. I eventually became president of Beverly Bank Oak Lawn. In 2001, after the sale of the Beverly Banks, I accepted a position with Oak Lawn Bank as executive vice president, chief lending officer, and board secretary. I am currently serving as president & CEO of PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet.

Our stories are all unique; our banks are unique, but we are all bonded by the same community bank model. Our customers' stories are also unique, but the themes of their stories are the same, from Metropolis to Rockford and everywhere in between. They need assistance with the small business, family farm, new home, college tuition or home remodeling job, and they need someone to listen to their story and treat them like an individual and not a number. That is what separates us from the mega Too Big To Fail banks — our ability to relate to our customers. The bottom line is that our stories are important, so never be afraid to tell your story.

Sheila, the ICBA and CBAI have done a great job this past year, but our work is never done. Fifty years ago, CBAI was founded because community banks needed an autonomous voice in the Illinois Capitol. Many people thought the association was a flash in the pan and would not last. When Bob Wingert was hired in



March of 1975, he was prepared to accept his position, in his words, "maybe through June." Well, we all know that Bob retired 42 years later in 2017, and we are all here celebrating 50 years of community bank advocacy. The mission is real, and although the issues change, it remains "One mission. Community banks."

To serve this mission, our collective associations must remain strong and independent. CBAI will continue to support and promote independent community bank associations. I think it is important, and I know that ICBA thinks it is important because they have invited me, along with First Vice Chairman Dan Graham and Kraig Lounsberry, to Washington, D.C., to discuss this very important issue later this year.

On the advocacy front, we have the attention of our regulators and politicians, but we must continue to work diligently to protect the community banking industry. They will not do it for us. We must continue to work hand in hand with the ICBA to deliver our pro-community bank message to policymakers and regulators in Springfield and Washington, D.C. Our advocacy team is dedicated and productive, but our professional and grassroots advocacy must continue. I know the process can be frustrating at times, but we must continue to participate. Community bankers must continue to respond to our calls to action and attend both our Capital Conference and our Call on Washington to remind policymakers that community banks drive this great American economy, but we need policies that help, not hinder, our collective mission. We know they hear us, but now, they need to listen. We need to continue to support public policy initiatives like the ACRE Act, prohibiting trigger leads, closing the ILC loophole, and passing a good farm bill. Working closely with the ICBA, we will continue to push back on Farm Credit and credit union overreach closely, and we will continue to educate the public and policymakers on the dangers of credit unions buying tax-paying community banks, slowly eroding our tax base and leaving our small business customers without access to credit. Policymakers need to wake up to the fact that these large credit unions have long ago surpassed their common bond argument, and they need to be treated and taxed

*“To serve this mission, our collective associations must remain strong and independent. CBAI will continue to support and promote independent community bank associations.”*

like every other regular business. If you can afford to pay to have an NFL stadium named after you, you can certainly afford to pay federal and state income taxes.

Earlier, I alluded to the fact that many believed a stand-alone association for community banks had little staying power in Illinois, and we may not have had that staying power without building the best education department and service corporation in the nation. But the only way this will continue is if we, as community bankers, continue to support our events, products and services. Our education staff works diligently to

provide excellent educational and special event opportunities, and our CBSC staff works to provide us access to both cutting-edge and tried and trusted services. They provide important resources to us, and we provide important resources to them. As CBAI Treasurer Jim Weast said earlier, no money, no mission, and the mission is too important not to support.

Finally, CBAI has been on the cutting edge of payments and innovation for some time now, and that will continue this year and in the years to come. Led by Payments Chairman Mark Field and Innovation Chairman Andy Tinberg, the two committees held a joint meeting recently in Springfield, and they will continue to keep Illinois community banks on the cutting edge of payments, technology and innovative ideas and solutions.

In short, CBAI has had many successes, but there is still much to do. My pledge to all of you as the 51<sup>st</sup> chairman of CBAI is to continue to work to strengthen community banking in this great state.

So again, thank you for this honor. I promise I will not let you down! ■

## LEADERSHIP ADDRESS — ICBA IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

*ICBA Immediate Past Chairman Derek B. Williams, President/CEO, Century Bank & Trust in Milledgeville, GA*

Speaking at the Community Bankers Association of Illinois 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Business Meeting, ICBA's Immediate Past Chairman Derek Williams, president and CEO of Century Bank & Trust in Milledgeville, Georgia, covered a variety of salient issues and industry updates. Below are excerpts, highlights and notable developments that were touched on.

### Community Banking

All of the individuals here and the institutions they represent contribute to making community banking a strong, resilient industry. The relationship-based business model we focus on and the unique collective voice we advocate with help support and grow economically robust communities across the country — this was the basis upon which ICBA was founded more than 90 years ago.

While ICBA's mission has stood firm, HOW we deliver on it has evolved to meet the changing needs of our industry. Today, community banking is gaining momentum, and ICBA is meeting the moment by working closely with your trade association, CBAI, which is celebrating 50 years of advocating on behalf of community bankers here in Illinois. And a special thanks to our leadership bankers as key partners in this mission.



### ICBA Impact

In the nation's capital, ICBA works to differentiate community banks and level the playing field, establishing our sector as essential, particularly in the wake of SVB and similar troubles. Our commitment paid off when the FDIC announced community banks with less than \$5 billion in assets would be exempt from the \$16.3 billion special assessment to restore the Deposit Insurance Fund. These tangible savings represent real dollars that you can now reinvest back into the community so you can focus on what truly matters — serving customers.

We continue to underscore the distinctions in our business model and the need for tiered and proportionate regulations while pointing out system inequities that have led to an alarming rate of credit union acquisitions of taxpaying community banks. Media outlets are taking notice of ICBA's opposition to credit union acquisitions of community banks, with recent CNBC, Axios and CNN coverage raising questions about credit union practices. And just recently, the FDIC included credit unions in their new merger statement, saying explicitly that additional scrutiny may be needed for deals involving tax-exempt credit unions, in the first such mention from the regulator.

### ICBA Pillars

Advocacy, Education and Innovation — these are the functional areas that ICBA leverages to establish and further our unique business model. These areas of focus work to level the playing field and underscore ICBA's mission to create and promote an environment where community banks flourish. Every ICBA staff member, from Washington, D.C., to Sauk Centre, Minnesota, to regional offices across the country, is dedicated to this mission with measurable results.

### Advocacy

ICBA is dedicated to promoting the community bank agenda before Congress, the administration and regulators — ensuring specific needs are loud and clear.

### 1071

ICBA continues to work against Section 1071 small business data collection implementation, working with the CFPB to exempt more community banks, protect the privacy interests of our customers and limit regulatory burdens.

ICBA is appealing a recent judicial ruling regarding 1071, arguing that the bureau violated the law by exceeding statutory authority and failing to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act. With the 1071 rule posing a serious threat to small businesses nationwide, ICBA will continue utilizing every available channel to mitigate the negative impact of this and other misguided CFPB rulemakings on community banks and the local communities served.

### Farm Bill/Farm Credit System

ICBA will continue the fight — we presented the House and Senate Agriculture Committees with six key principles that should be incorporated into the new farm bill, and we are lobbying for completion of the 2024 bill during the lame duck, or the time remaining in the year following the election. Similarly, ICBA opposes FCS expansion and supports the ACRE Act.

### CRA Reform

Protecting community banks from additional burdens resulting from potential CRA expansion is critical. Arguments include that the final rules unlawfully evaluate banks' performance nationwide, not within the bank's community. The CRA only allows evaluation of banks' performance as to community credit needs, and the final rules inflict irreparable harm through significant, unrecoverable compliance costs.

### Action on Check Fraud

More than 40 community banks participate in and contribute to ICBA's Check Fraud Task Force, and their work was recently cited positively by Acting Comptroller of the Currency Michael Hsu.

ICBA's Community Fraud Group is loaded with peer-to-peer information, and as we bring together regulators, law enforcement, trade groups and stakeholders, ICBA continues to leverage every tool in its arsenal, including the media where prominent outlets like TIME Magazine and The New York Times have profiled check fraud concerns from a community banking perspective.

### Education

Fueled by ICBA's commitment to unlocking the potential of community bankers, ICBA Education's work to provide continuous learning, adaptability, accessibility and networking is stronger than ever. ICBA Education trains 120,000 community bankers annually, covering a wide range of topics that impact all areas of the bank. These offerings are available through numerous channels to fit the flexibility and learning needs of every individual.

CBAI has teamed up with ICBA to provide educational resources. Make sure that when you register, you put in the code IL-CBAI, and your state association will receive 10% of the registration fee to help support their programs.

### Innovation

Finally, when we look at differentiating community banks and leveling the playing field, we must consider the huge opportunity that innovation presents and continue to innovate to serve the needs of our customers and communities.

ICBA set the course for community bank innovation with its launch of the ICBA ThinkTECH Accelerator in 2018, and we continued to ramp up our programming with two Accelerators this year. And for the second year in a row, CBAI hosted a ThinkTECH showcase — thank you for the support. As we grow year-round

programming to include additional forums for continued collaboration with emerging companies, we invite you to join us in this journey and sign up to participate in our Accelerator programs planned for the first part of 2025.

**Engagement**

I also hope that you will consider our upcoming events. They are some of the best around, and like our other offerings, they are built for community banks. ICBA LIVE in Nashville from March 11–14 is the best opportunity to network with bankers and learn about the biggest issues in community banking. I also strongly encourage you to join me next year for the ICBA Capital Summit as we engage with policymakers in our nation’s capital. Illinois has always had a strong contingent, and keeping up that tradition will help our voice be heard.

And, of course, we encourage you to join up and continue those conversations through ICBA Community, our online peer-to-peer network. With more than 4,000 members and 12 subgroups, including the brand-new Internal Audit group, there’s something for everyone.

*“Today, community banking is gaining momentum, and ICBA is meeting the moment by working closely with your trade association, CBAI, which is celebrating 50 years of advocating on behalf of community bankers here in Illinois.”*

**Thank You**

ICBA continues to serve its mission with our bankers by our side — undivided in our attention and loyalties, not conflicted or confused. ■

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Banknotes

+ November 2024

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# GOLF TOURNAMENT



(L to R: Jim Weast, Warren-Boynton State Bank, New Berlin; Kim McKee, North Central Bank, Hennepin; Amy Thiede, Prairie Community Bank, Marengo; Jennifer Beard, Farmers State Bank, Elmwood)



First Place Team – Flight #1  
(L to R: Bonnett, Gordon, Parrott, Eckert)



First Place Team – Flight #2  
(L to R: Jeffers, Jeffers, Welborn, Estes)

## FLIGHT #1

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Team** — Jeff Bonnett, Havana National Bank; Rich Eckert, Beardstown Savings, s.b.; Chris Gordon, Community First Bank, Galva; and Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team** — Sanjay Bhaskar, Revio; Cameron Ohlendorf, First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher; Ben Buckley, Kirk Gross Company; and Mike Putbrese, First Community Bank, Xenia-Flora

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team** — Jason Knoedler, Tom Marantz, Gregory Marantz, and Hannah Marantz, Bank of Springfield

## FLIGHT #2

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Team** — Karen Jeffers and Tod Jeffers, Scott State Bank, Bethany; and Julie Welborn and Mike Estes, The Fisher National Bank

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team** — Kennedy McNamara, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago; Jason Penman and Alan Stremlau, Illini State Bank; and Skyler Valk, Akrivis Real Estate Evaluation Services

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team** — Manny Flores, SomerCor 504, Inc.; Todd Grayson, Pat McShane, and Jackie McShane, American Metro Bank, Chicago

## HOLE CONTEST WINNERS

**Longest Putt** — Patrick Sullivan, State Bank of Toulon

**Longest Drive** — Gregg Roegge, Rushville State Bank

**Closest-to-the-Pin** — Mike Putbrese, First Community Bank, Xenia-Flora ■



(L to R: Chad Martin, Goodfield State Bank; Kris King, Quad City Bank & Trust Co.; Joe Carty, IRONCORE, Inc.; and Phil Aderton, Risk Strategies|ZALE Financial Group)



Through "Skins and Mulligans," \$1,580 was raised for Community BancPac. There was one skins winner. **Sanjay Bhaskar, Revio; Cameron Ohlendorf, First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher; Ben Buckley, Kirk Gross Company; and Mike Putbrese, First Community Bank, Xenia-Flora,** had a birdie on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole.

## WELCOMING RECEPTION/BANCPAC AUCTION



This year's Annual Convention attracted nearly 450 attendees, including nearly 250 bankers from more than 75 banks and more than 130 exhibitors manning more than 70 booths. The Welcoming Reception, with a theme to follow the Convention title of "50 Years. One Mission. Community Banks.," featured food, music and the annual silent and live auctions to benefit Community BancPac, the only political action committee that solely benefits Illinois community banks. The BancPac live and silent auctions netted more than \$40,000, which is a new all-time record! The Foundation for Community Banking's wine pull sales raised a total of \$1,940! Thank you to our generous participants! ■

## OPENING BREAKFAST



Speaker Collette Carlson

Friday's Opening Breakfast featured Collette Carlson, founder of Speak Your Truth, Inc., a human behavior expert and keynote speaker who inspires individuals to connect and communicate in real and relevant ways. She is a certified speaking professional (CSP), and in 2017, was inducted into the CPAE Speaker Hall Fame®, a lifetime award that honors professional speakers who have reached the top echelon of platform excellence.

Regardless of your title and role, people experience everyday stressors while they are expected to stay agile through constant change. In today's world, people are required to exceed expectations and produce more in less time with fewer resources, all while staying positive and engaged with colleagues and customers. New challenges have collapsed the boundaries between work and home, leaving people juggling

opposing demands for time, energy and attention. It's no surprise that even with the best of intentions, leaders and teams feel stressed out, disconnected and emotionally exhausted.

Carlson's laugh-out-loud presentation of "You Management: Strategies to Avoid Burnout, Boost Resilience and Accelerate Success" shared practical, yet powerful, science-based strategies to remain resilient and accelerate your success during the most challenging of circumstances. ■



# FINTECH SHOWCASE

CBAI's Annual Convention featured a Fintech Showcase on Friday morning. Attendees experienced the live presentations of six emerging companies brought to you by the ICBA ThinkTECH Accelerator. Participants learned about the companies' new technologies and opportunities for their banks to implement innovative solutions and flourish. This session was designed to allow bankers to engage with early-stage fintech companies that focus on developing products and solutions specifically for community banks and/or their customers. ■

### Fintech Showcase Firms

- |          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Adlumin  | Monit           |
| HuLoop   | Revio           |
| KlariVis | Teslar Software |



# EDUCATION



# EXHIBIT HALL

A must-visit for every convention-goer, CBAI hosted a sold-out Exhibit Hall with nearly 80 booths featuring products and services benefitting community banks. ■



*Dianna Torman, OSB Community Bank, Ottawa, won the Grand Prize in the Exhibit Hall of \$1,000.*



*Winners of the Walk-Around drawings were Katie Ashworth, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville, \$250; Julie Welborn, The Fisher National Bank, \$150; and Brenda Baer, The First National Bank in Tremont, \$50. (L to R: Ashworth, Baer, Welborn)*



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# RECOGNITION

## Recognition Luncheon Speaker

The featured speaker for the Recognition Luncheon was CBAI Senior Vice President of Governmental Relations Jerry Peck, who provided an up-to-the-minute briefing on key issues and highlighted CBAI's ongoing grassroots and professional lobbying efforts.

## Outstanding Member Award



Doug Parrott receives the prestigious Outstanding Member Award from CBAI Chairwoman Sheila Burcham. (L to R: Hayley Down (daughter), Doug Parrott, Sheila Burcham, Karin Parrott)

Every year, CBAI recognizes one outstanding member for their valuable and selfless commitment to advancing the principles of community banking at an extraordinary level. This year's individual epitomizes the word outstanding with his unwavering commitment of time, talent and generosity. The 2024 Outstanding Member of the Year is **Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon**.

The CBAI journey for Parrott started in 1987, when, with just five years of experience, he asked the bank's current management to enroll him in the inaugural class of the Community Bankers School. He has not slowed down since. His service to community banking through CBAI now spans four decades. Shortly after graduating from the School, he joined the Young Bankers Division, now the Career Development Division, and, in time, served a three-year term as the CDD chair from 1994–1996 and was recognized as CDD's Career Banker of the Year 25 years ago.

Parrott is currently a member of the CBAI and CBSC Boards, as well as the Audit, Finance, Payments, Pension and Strategic Planning committees, just to name a few. Serving as chairperson of countless committees during his rise through the ranks, he eventually served as chairman of both the CBSC and CBAI Boards. During his chairmanship, he was one of only three chairs (two at the time) in CBAI history to attend every Group Meeting for a total of 11 locations statewide.

His involvement includes serving on the Legislation & Regulation Committee, a responsibility that he has not taken lightly. Parrott is an annual contributor to the Community BancPac CEO Challenge,

which is attained when 100% of a bank's directors and officers donate to Community BancPac and/or FedPac, an annual member of the Community BancPac Chairman's Club (\$300-plus), and an annual Platinum Contributor to CBAI FedPac. State Bank of Toulon is also an annual contributor to the Corporate (\$1,000-plus level) of Community BancPac and is an annual Call on Washington sponsor. He is a major proponent and contributor to the annual Community BancPac Silent and Live Auctions and serves as a co-chair for the event.

Not only financially generous to CBAI's governmental relations efforts but also generous with his time, Parrott attends GR events, including the Cap Conference, Call on Washington and FedPac baseball game, not to mention hosting and attending legislative roundtables and in-district congressional and state legislative meetings.

His generosity and support of the Foundation for Community Banking scholarship program can be accurately described as unparalleled. Not only has Parrott personally donated more than \$6,000 to become a Silver-level donor, his bank is one of only four Platinum-level contributors with \$42,843 in donations. His bank also chooses to honor the bank's former board members who have passed by donating to the Foundation in their memory, and he often volunteers for the Foundation's eccentric fundraising events, including singing karaoke and participating in a sumo wrestling battle.

Parrott's activity spills over to the bank, as well. Year after year, the State Bank of Toulon is one of the top participants in CBAI education and has received the Patron of Community Banking Award an incredible 20 times. In addition, many other bank officers are active on CBAI committees and are encouraged to attend CBAI events.

His dedication to bettering the community banking profession does not stop at CBAI, as he serves as chairman of the Illinois Transfer System Board of Directors, is on the Shazam Board of Directors, and is actively involved in the ICBA, where he currently serves on the board of directors and chairs the ICBA PAC Committee.

Parrott lives and breathes community banking and CBAI. To honor his many contributions to the profession of community banking during his distinguished career, CBAI recognizes Parrott as the 2024 CBAI Outstanding Member.

## Patrons of Community Banking

A Patron Bank has actively contributed to community banking and supported CBAI through nine very specific criteria, including, but not limited to, representation at the Capital Conference, Call on Washington, Group Meetings and Convention, CBAI Board or Committee participation, donations to BancPac/FedPac and the Foundation for Community Banking, attendance at a predetermined number of education events, and utilization of CBSC services. Twenty-five CBAI members achieved the Patron status for 2023–2024. We thank you for your continued support of the Association!

**Patrons of Community Banking for 2023–2024**

Apple River State Bank  
 Bank of Springfield  
 Bradford National Bank, Irvington  
 CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville  
 Buena Vista National Bank, Chester  
 Dieterich Bank, Effingham  
 Farmers National Bank of Griggsville  
 Farmers State Bank, Elmwood  
 First National Bank in Pinckneyville  
 The First National Bank in Tremont  
 The Fisher National Bank  
 Flora Bank & Trust  
 German-American State Bank, German Valley  
 Legence Bank, Eldorado  
 Liberty Bank  
 Midwest Bank, Monmouth  
 North Central Bank, Hennepin  
 Prairie Community Bank, Marengo  
 Princeville State Bank  
 Rushville State Bank  
 Scott State Bank, Bethany  
 Security Bank, s.b., Springfield  
 State Bank of Graymont  
 State Bank of Toulon  
 State Street Bank  
 & Trust Co., Quincy



*CBAI Chairman-Elect David Stanton, People First Bank, Joliet, recognizes Outgoing Chairwoman Sheila Burcham, Bradford National Bank, Irvington*

**Outgoing Chairman Award**

This award was presented to Sheila Burcham, Bradford National Bank, Irvington, for her commitment of time, energy and leadership to the advancement of community banking in Illinois as CBAI Chairwoman for 2023–2024.

**Board Service Awards**

These awards are presented to individuals whose tenures on CBAI corporate family boards have ended.

**CBAI Board Service Awards**

Matt Beavers, First National Bank of Pana 2014–2024  
 Gregg Roegge, Rushville State Bank 2006–2024

**CBSB Board Service Awards**

Matt Beavers, First National Bank of Pana 2014–2024  
 June Kidd, The First National Bank in Tremont 2019–2024  
 Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon 2020–2024  
 Jim Weast, Warren-Boynton State Bank, New Berlin 2011–2024

**Foundation Board Service Award**

Jim Weast, Warren-Boynton State Bank, New Berlin 2021–2024

**Charter Member Awards**

CBAI would like to recognize the charter members of the association who have been members since day one and who are celebrating 50 years of membership with us.

Apple River State Bank	First National Bank in Taylorville
Bank of Kampsville	The First National Bank in Tremont
Bank of Springfield	First National Bank of Lacon
Bank of Yates City	FirstSouthern Bank, Marion
Better Banks, Peoria	First State Bank of Shannon-Polo
Buckley State Bank	First State Bank of St. Peter
Byron Bank	Great Rivers Bank, Barry
Camp Grove State Bank	Holcomb Bank, Rochelle
Central State Bank, Pleasant Hill	La Salle State Bank
Citizens Bank of Edinburg	Lena State Bank
Citizens State Bank of Milford	Midland Community Bank, Kincaid
Community Bank, Winslow	Milledgeville State Bank
Devon Bank, Chicago	North Central Bank, Hennepin
Fairview State Banking Company	Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank, Virginia
Farmers & Merchants Bank of Hutsonville	State Bank of Herscher
Farmers National Bank, Prophetstown	State Bank of Toulon
Farmers State Bank, Elmwood	State Bank, Waterloo
Farmers State Bank of Hoffman	State Street Bank and Trust Co., Quincy
First Bank of Manhattan	
First Community Bank, Xenia-Flora	

**Community BancPac CEO Challenge**

The CEO Challenge is met by bankers who qualified for a \$250 prize because 100% of their banks' directors and officers donated to Community BancPac and/or FedPac. The following CEOs have met the challenge this year. The winner of the \$250 prize was **Mark Field, Liberty Bank, who donated it back to the BancPac. Thank you!**

**Community BancPac CEO Challenge**

Joel Holland, Apple River State Bank  
 Greg Ohlendorf, First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher  
 Tod Jeffers, Scott State Bank, Bethany  
 Scott Mincemoyer, Byron Bank  
 Andy Tinberg, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville (Oak Forest)  
 Brian Ury, Buena Vista National Bank, Chester  
 Jason Semple, Dieterich Bank, Effingham  
 Kevin Beckemeyer, Legence Bank, Eldorado  
 Ryan Heiser, The Fisher National Bank  
 Dan Graham, Flora Bank & Trust  
 Doug Smith, Farmers National Bank of Griggsville  
 Tina Callaway, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Hutsonville  
 Mark Field, Liberty Bank  
 Dan Nederhoff, Milledgeville State Bank  
 Steve Backlund, Better Banks, Peoria

Steve Backlund, Backlund Investment Company, Peoria Heights  
 Mary Jo Homan, First National Bank in Pinckneyville  
 Steve Backlund, State Street Bank & Trust Co., Quincy  
 Jason Knoedler, Bank of Springfield  
 Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon  
 Josh Dickey, The First National Bank of Tremont

#### CBAI FedPac 100% Director Participation

Brian Ury, Buena Vista National Bank, Chester  
 Kevin Beckemeyer, Legence Bank, Eldorado  
 Mark Field, Liberty Bank  
 Mary Jo Homan, First National Bank of Pinckneyville  
 Jason Knoedler, Bank of Springfield

#### Community BancPac Top Corporate Contributors

Belmont Bank & Trust, Chicago  
 Legence Bank, Eldorado  
 Bradford Bancorp, Inc., Greenville  
 First State Bank, Mendota  
 Midwest Bank of Western Illinois, Monmouth  
 Prospect Bank, Paris  
 Bank of Springfield  
 First Neighborhood Bancshares, Inc., Toledo  
 State Bank of Toulon  
 SHAZAM, Inc., Johnston, IA

#### CBAI FedPac Platinum Contributors

Colleen Henkel, The First National Bank in Amboy  
 Chad Martin, Goodfield State Bank  
 Matt Bibo, PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet  
 Mark Field, Liberty Bank  
 Tom Marantz, Bank of Springfield  
 David Schroeder, CBAI, Springfield  
 Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon

#### Excellence and Innovation Forvis Mazars Award Presented by CBAI

The winner of the Award for Excellence and Innovation for 2024 is the **Bank of Springfield** for its initiative, **Keys to Home Ownership**.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a high-performing CBAI-member bank that demonstrates a commitment to its employees, customers, shareholders and/or community through exceptional programming. The Excellence and Innovation Award recognizes banks that go beyond the ordinary, from innovative customer services to premier examples of corporate citizenship. I urge all of you to examine your bank's new products and services and your philanthropic efforts for possible participation in next year's award.

The winning program truly demonstrated what it means to be one with their community. Bank of Springfield is committed to helping lower-income individuals and families purchase a home. The BOS "Keys to Home Ownership" program, which was started in 2022, is a closing cost credit program for borrowers with income under 80%

of the area median income where the property is located. Qualifying borrowers receive a \$1,000 credit toward closing costs, which includes an appraisal of the property, recording fee and other one-time costs associated with a mortgage loan.



Bank of Springfield (BOS) was the winner of the Excellence and Innovation Forvis Mazars Award, presented by CBAI. Gregory Marantz and Jennifer Marantz accepted the award. (L to R: Wes Johnson, Forvis Mazars, Gregory Marantz, BOS, Jennifer Marantz, BOS, and Gary Genenbacher, Forvis Mazars)

Borrowers are offered financial counseling and resources during the first year of homeownership, including advice on budgeting for expenses and planning for future repairs or updates.

Thank you to those who submitted nomination forms and to our great panel of judges! We can't wait to see what next year will bring!

#### Community BancService Corporation (CBSC) Service Provider of the Year Award

CBAI is pleased to recognize a valuable partner of CBSC for more than three decades, with a stellar reputation for providing solutions to community banks.

CBSC and the professionals at Wolters Kluwer Financial Services have worked together for 36 years to help community banks comply with ever-changing regulations and to bring new solutions for compliance and lending. Whether working side-by-side with our member banks through RESPA or TILA, or more recently with CRA or BOI, Wolters Kluwer has demonstrated the Main Street importance in the industry with their unwavering commitment to community banks.

As Wolters Kluwer brought advancements in technology seeking efficiencies for our banking customers, CBAI members were frequently at the forefront of early solution testing and feedback. In the last year, when Wolters Kluwer sought early input on One-SumX Reg Manager, a new regulatory technology solution specifically designed for community banks, they chose CBAI's 2023 annual convention for the first market introduction.



Wolters Kluwer was honored with the Service Provider of the Year Award. (L to R: Sheila Burcham, Bradford National Bank, Irvington; Stephen Bradley, Wolters Kluwer; and David Stanton, PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet)

More recently, CBSC and Wolters Kluwer have partnered to bring our membership their innovation for Beneficial Ownership Interest Report Filing services. Community banks can now help inform and educate their small business customers of Wolter Kluwer's compliant solution, which assists small business customers in filing required reports with FINCEN to avoid facing financial consequences and potential criminal penalties.

For many years, the leadership and innovation for the benefit of community banks have been the hallmark of a truly historic partnership between CBSC and Wolters Kluwer.

For all their many contributions to protecting and preserving community banks, we would like to award **Wolters Kluwer** as the **2024 CBSC Service Provider of the Year**.

#### Anniversaries in Community Banking

Judy Chapman, Liberty Bank (1973–2023)  
 Merle Coile, Anchor State Bank (1974–2024)  
 Jo David Cummins, Community First Bank of the Heartland, Mt. Vernon (1973–2023)  
 Roger DeGraff, Providence Bank & Trust (1974–2024)  
 Carol Jo Fritts, First Neighbor Bank, N.A., Toledo (1974–2024)  
 Roger Fruhling, Bank of Rantoul (1974–2024)  
 Michael Mahair, State Street Bank & Trust Co., Quincy (1974–2024)  
 Gerald Reed, The First National Bank of Brownstown (1974–2024)  
 Robert Williams, Security National Bank, Witt (1974–2024)

#### CBAI Foundation for Community Banking Scholarships

(see Foundation Report)

#### New Member Recruitment Drawing

Whenever a bank or associate member firm is successfully recruited into membership by a member banker, that banker's name is entered in a special drawing. The winner of the \$500 cash prize was **Ray Altmix, First Southern Bank, Marion**, who donated the money to the Foundation for Community Banking scholarship program. Thank you!

#### Group Meeting Awards

##### Highest Banker Attendance

Kim McKee  
 North Central Bank, Hennepin  
 Group 5

##### Highest Percentage of Members Participating

David Albin  
 Longview Capital Corporation, Newman  
 Group 8

#### Education Participation Awards

##### Education Participation Leaders 2024

##### More Than \$225 Million

1. CNB Bank & Trust, N. A., Carlinville
2. State Bank of Toulon
3. The Fisher National Bank
4. The FNB Community Bank, Vandalia
5. MidAmerica National Bank, Canton Buena Vista National Bank, Chester

##### \$150 Million–\$225 Million

1. North Central Bank, Hennepin
2. State Bank of Whittington, Benton
3. First National Bank of Nokomis
4. The First National Bank in Tremont
5. Scott State Bank, Bethany

##### \$75 Million — Less than \$150 Million

1. First National Bank in Pinckneyville
2. Farmers National Bank of Griggsville
3. The First National Bank of Sparta
4. Bank of Yates City
5. Granville National Bank, Sheridan

##### Less than \$75 Million

1. Midland Community Bank, Kincaid
2. Farmers State Bank, Elmwood
3. Beardstown Savings, s.b.
4. The First National Bank of Ava
5. Anchor State Bank  
 Chester National Bank

Community bankers attending the Legislative Update and Recognition Luncheon on Saturday were eligible to win a full convention registration for a banker and guest at CBAI's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention & Expo in Kansas City, Missouri. The winner was **Mary Jo Homan, First National Bank in Pinckneyville**. ■

# CBAI CAREER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



CDD sold skins and mulligans to benefit Community BancPac. (L to R: Tyler Hodge, The First National Bank in Tremont; Cameron Ohlendorf, First Community Bank & Trust, Beecher; Melinda McClelland, CBAI)



**The Career Development Division (CDD)** again conducted its popular “Skins and Mulligans” game during CBAI’s Annual Golf Tournament and raised \$1,980 for Community BancPac via the effort. Thanks to all who participated in this event.

The annual fall meeting and membership were promoted at CDD’s booth in the Convention Exhibit Hall. Visitors to the booth could play a “Lock & Key” game in conjunction with the CBAI Governmental Relations and CBAI Foundation booth to win \$50 cash during each exhibit hall session. Visitors were also able to take their pictures to commemorate CBAI’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. CDD board members also participated in the Foundation’s karaoke competition on Friday night and performed a rendition of Summer Nights from Grease, which was loved by all! Special thanks go to the CDD members who assisted with the booth from set-up to teardown:

- Katie Ashworth, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville
- Doug Blunier, State Bank of Toulon
- Olivia Bradley, Legence Bank, Eldorado
- Emilee Carter, The Fisher National Bank
- Michael Gill, Flora Bank & Trust
- Tyler Hodge, New Holland Banking Center
- Cameron Ohlendorf, First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher
- Cole Stenzel, Buena Vista National Bank, Chester
- Nichole Weber, The Frederick Community Bank, Paxton
- Delaina Zellers, German-American State Bank, German Valley ■

## PARTNERS' PROGRAMS



Thursday's Partners' Program tour began at Route 66 Motorheads Restaurant and Museum, where participants enjoyed a great lunch, drinks and a nostalgic walk through the past with vintage memorabilia, photographs and artifacts that told the story of Route 66, showcasing the people, places and moments that have shaped its legend. Then, the group visited the Motorheads Gift Shop, where an impressive array of memorabilia and collectibles celebrates the spirit of Route 66. Partners walked across the parking lot to Alive on 66, where they found a quaint garden shop filled with unique plants and gifts.

Next, the tour headed to Ace Sign Co. Sign Museum to check out their collection of over 85 historic signs from Springfield and Route 66. The collection is constantly growing and transforming as it strives to maintain some of the most iconic signs in the area. The museum features many notable signs, including a 12-foot tall 1953 Neon Pepsi Bottle Cap, a sign that once identified the Train Depot where Abraham Lincoln gave his farewell speech, and a number of other vintage signs originating from memorable dining establishments and vintage brewing companies. The trip ended with a shopping trip at the Route 66 Sign Museum Store for museum merchandise.



On Friday, partners started the day with shopping at The Village Gift Shoppes followed by lunch at The Village Tea Room. The Village Gift Shoppes are a collection of small shops located under one roof where you can find home décor, gardens, floral, hand-made jewelry, bath and body, kitchen items, handcrafted wood items, sports and seasonal items all made by local vendors. The Village Tea Room provided a quaint atmosphere for a private lunch. After lunch, the bus visited several other local boutiques featuring locally made apparel, jewelry, home goods and more.



On Saturday, partners painted a fun fall piece led by local artist Sharyn Bradley. After 24 years of teaching various subjects in the Pawnee School District, Bradley is now retired and has been teaching paint nights for the past two years at the Pawnee Public Library. ■



## FRIDAY NIGHT PARKING LOT PARTY – FOUNDATION KARAOKE FUNDRAISER

**Foundation Karaoke Fundraiser**

At CBAI's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Expo, the Foundation for Community Banking brought another epic battle! This time, six teams of competitors took the stage for a battle of the karaoke bands. On September 20, 2024, at CBAI's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Expo Friday evening event, each karaoke team had the opportunity to perform one song at the beginning of the night. Attendees were able to "vote" for their favorite performance by donating to the Foundation in that team's name.

All fundraising dollars raised, including the entry fee, other donations solicited before the event, and "votes" on the night of the event were added together to determine each team's total. The karaoke team that raised the most money for the Foundation at the end of the night was deemed the winner of the coveted "Golden Microphone" award as the 2024 Foundation for Community Banking Karaoke Competition Champions! The winning team was **The Money Makers, who raised nearly \$7,000 performing their rendition of Old Time Rock & Roll.**

Thanks to the incredible performances and fundraising of all six talented teams, as well as to the additional karaoke singers, the event raised a **record-breaking \$19,780!** (Those who chose not to join the competition but wanted to sing were still able to do so after the team performances for a minimal Foundation donation.) All performances had a full live band accompaniment by Live Band Karaoke of Chicago. All Foundation donations are tax-deductible. Thank you so much to all of our competitors and performers for all of your hard work and fundraising efforts, and thank you to everyone who supported the Foundation through this event! ■

**Karaoke Teams**

**DBE: Da Best Ever — Ice, Ice Baby by Vanilla Ice**

Miles Harris, DBE

Hank Holm, DBE

John McDonnell, DBE

Joe Giordano, DBE

*(Raised \$600 for the Foundation)*

**Small Town — BK — Love Shack by the B-52s**

Susan Davis, Murphy- Wall State Bank, Pinckneyville

Marty Davis, Murphy- Wall State Bank, Pinckneyville

Trene Pinnell, NFP Executive Benefits, Taylorville, IL

Jeff Rabenort, CBSC

*(Raised \$740 for the Foundation)*

**AC/DD — Summer Nights by**

**Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta (Grease)**

Delaina Zellers, German-American State Bank,

German Valley (Pecatonica)

Katie Ashworth, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville

Doug Blunier, State Bank of Toulon

Olivia Bradley, Legence Bank, Eldorado

Emilee Carter, The Fisher National Bank

Michael Gill, Flora Bank & Trust

Cole Stenzel, Buena Vista National Bank, Chester

Nichole Weber, The Frederick Community Bank, Paxton

*(Raised \$1,250 for the Foundation)*

**CBAI Queens — Dancing Queen by ABBA**

Sheila Burcham, Bradford National Bank, Irvington

Colleen Henkel, First National Bank in Amboy

Mary Jo Homan, First National Bank in Pinckneyville

Kelly Johnson, Grand Ridge National Bank

Dianna Torman, OSB Community Bank, Ottawa

*(Raised \$4,605 for the Foundation)*



*“Thanks to the incredible performances and fundraising of all six talented teams, as well as to the additional karaoke singers, the event raised a record-breaking \$19,780!”*



**Hayden and the Banker Babes —**

**What I Like About You by The Romantics**

Amy Thiede, Prairie Community Bank, Marengo  
 Jennifer Beard, Farmers State Bank, Elmwood  
 Hayden Creasy, Prairie Community Bank, Marengo  
 Kris King, Quad City Bank & Trust Company, Davenport  
 Kim McKee, North Central Bank, Hennepin  
*(Raised \$5,690 for the Foundation)*

**The Money Makers —**

**Old Time Rock & Roll by Bob Seger**

Dan Graham, Flora Bank & Trust  
 Phil Aderton, Risk Strategies| IZALE Financial Group  
 Andrew Black, Princeville State Bank  
 Jeff Bonnett, Havana National Bank  
 Matt Clark, Federated Bank, Onarga  
 Shawn Davis, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A. (Carlinville)  
 Rich Eckert, Beardstown Savings, s.b.  
 Mike Estes, The Fisher National Bank  
 Jason Knoedler, Bank of Springfield  
 Pat McShane, American Metro Bank, Chicago  
 Deon Perryman, The Baker Group  
 Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon  
 Jeff Rabenort, CBSC  
 Mike Radliff, Citizens Community Bank, Mascoutah  
 David Stanton, PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet  
 Neal Stimpert, Atlanta National Bank  
 Jim Weast, Warren- Boynton State Bank, New Berlin  
 Derek Williams, Century Bank & Trust, Milledgeville, GA  
*(Raised \$6,895 for the Foundation)*

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# SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER DANCE



Congratulations to **Julie Welborn, The Fisher National Bank**, who is the winner of the Grand Prize trip drawing for a \$3,000 travel voucher to the destination of her choice! (L to R: Julie Welborn and Craig Lounsberry)

# EXHIBITORS

**Thank you to all of our exhibiting firms that participated in  
CBAI's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Expo. We couldn't have a convention without your support!**

Adlumin  
 ADVANTAGE powered by JMFA  
 Akrivis Real Estate Evaluation Services  
 American Bank Systems  
 BancMac - Community Banc Mortgage Corp.  
 CBAI's Career Development Division  
 CBAI's Foundation for Community Banking  
 CBAI's Governmental Relations  
 CBAI's Website Hosting Program  
 CBIS, a Division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.  
 Check Printing Solutions  
 Comptroller of the Currency  
 Computer Services, Inc.  
 Core 10  
 Country Banker  
 Croptell  
 CSPI - Computer Service Professionals, Inc.  
 Data Business Equipment, Inc.  
 DCI (Data Center Inc.)  
 Deluxe  
 Econocheck  
 FDIC  
 Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago  
 Federal Protection  
 Fiserv  
 Forvis Mazars  
 Halo Solar LLC  
 ICBA  
 ICBA CRA Solutions  
 Illinois Society Professional Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers  
 IntraFi Network  
 IRONCORE, Inc.  
 Kasasa  
 Kirk Gross Company  
 KlariVis  
 LRS Small Business Tech Services  
 Leap Strategic Marketing, LLC  
 Lee & Mason Financial Services, Inc.

Linker Finance Inc.  
 Midwestern Securities Trading Co., LLC  
 NFP Executive Benefits  
 Ncontracts  
 Oculus Software  
 Performance Equity Partners, Inc.  
 Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank Mortgage Service Program  
 PG Design + Build  
 PMA Financial Network, LLC  
 Quad City Bank and Trust Co.  
 Regency  
 RESULTS Technology  
 Risk Strategies | IZALE Financial Group  
 Rockford Tech-Systems, Inc.  
 RSM US LLP  
 SEICO Security Systems  
 SHAZAM, Inc.  
 Single Source Architects & Builders  
 Small Business Growth Corporation  
 SomerCor 504, Inc.  
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# Get Real Growth with High-Yield Deposits

Kasasa

If you're like many banks and credit unions, you've been offering 0% free checking and using CDs to drive deposits. But what if you turned that approach on its head and used high-yield checking accounts to drive deposits?

As water flows downhill, deposits flow to the highest rate. When consumers inevitably ask, "What's your best rate?" will they be more delighted to hear the answer is a high-yield checking account or a CD? Clearly, consumers will prefer the checking account. After all, who doesn't like more liquidity?

But there's a giant advantage for you as well. These deposits will cost much less and will come from people who give the name of your institution as the answer to "Where do you bank?" Now, those are the kinds of deposits that you want.

Atlantic Federal Credit Union and Bank of Tescott have both experienced this, and high-yield checking accounts have become a long-term strategy for both because the products benefit customers and provide the institutions with long-term relationships.

## CDs can bring in deposits but not real growth.

CDs are a great way to bring in fast cash, but they don't help with your long-term growth goals. You can offer better rates than CDs and build a relationship with the consumer. High-yield checking accounts are stickier and create deposits that last.

That doesn't mean you should abandon CDs altogether. For many institutions, they remain an important part of their portfolios. For example, MCT Credit Union offers competitive CD rates to take care of members who want CDs, but they use high-yield checking and savings to drive deposits.

## A 6% promoted rate doesn't mean a 6% cost.

Now, we aren't suggesting that 6% is right for every institution. A variety of factors must be considered, and each institution is different. But there are many institutions at 6% (and higher) and hundreds running high-yield checking as their highest-rate product. This is a proven idea that works. Let's see how.

First and foremost, you get to decide the activities that will help your institution become the primary financial institution, including choosing e-statements over mailed statements, a minimum number of debit card transactions, and/or setting up direct deposit.

For example, the more ACH transactions an institution has with a consumer, the more likely they are to keep that consumer. If your electric bill comes out of your checking account, you're going to make sure that there's always money in that account.

This product design incentivizes the consumer to think of this as their main account and become the default card for their digital payments.

One credit union asks members to swipe their debit card 12 times per month, have one ACH transaction, and use e-statements to qualify for high-yield rewards. These are simple things, but they're also extremely important in making people feel connected to your institution.

## Choose the structure that works for you and your account holders.

Since some of their members swipe much more than 12 times per month, Atlantic Federal Credit Union has added a second tier to their high-yield checking account. Members who swipe 15 times per month receive 3% on balances up to \$15,000. Those who swipe 30 times per month or more are rewarded with a 5% rate.

If account holders don't meet the qualifying criteria, no problem. They're informed why they did not qualify and simply earn the published base rate — perhaps 0.5% — and the account remains free. No bait and switch.

This type of account inverts the typical rate structure since the high, promoted rate is paid on the portion of balances below a certain cap. Any portion of balances above the cap earns a much lower rate. The size of the cap has a tremendous impact on the average balance and allows you to predictably grow deposits to achieve a blended rate that significantly reduces the cost of funds (COF).

## Are you ready to experience real growth?

Banks that still rely on traditional methods of increasing deposits tend to suffer from deposit runoff, increasing COF and cannibalization of low-cost core deposits into CDs — and they feel the squeeze on margin.

High-yield checking accounts allow you to entice consumers with an attention-grabbing promoted rate AND create a long-term relationship — while lowering your overall cost by a substantial amount.

Happy consumers. Happy institutions. Win-win. ■

**Kasasa is a CBSC Preferred Service Provider.**



# The Fed Finally Cut Rates – NOW WHAT?

Ryan Hayhurst, President, The Baker Group, Oklahoma City, OK

**A**fter the most aggressive tightening cycle in 40 years and the second longest period ever with rates at the peak of the cycle, the Federal Reserve (Fed) finally relented and cut rates 50bp in September. And just like that, the banking industry has pivoted from focusing on the risk of rising rates to the risk of falling rates. For the last three years, banks have been managing the interest rate risk associated with rising rates. Deposit costs have surged, bond portfolios have depreciated by record amounts, and margins have been squeezed. Now that the Fed has cut rates for the first time since early 2020, what should community banks expect during this easing cycle, and how can they better prepare for lower rates?

## Fed Funds Rate & Prime

The Fed's September "Dot Plot" showed they expect to cut rates another 50bp in 2024, followed by 100bp in 2025 and a final 50bp in early 2026 to end with a fed funds rate of 2.75–3% and a prime rate of 6%. This means banks should prepare for short-term interest rates to fall about 200bp over the next 18 months if the Fed's forecast is correct. However, the Fed's "Dot Plot" is based on their forecast for a "soft landing." What happens if a recession occurs in 2025? Then the Fed will almost certainly have to cut rates more than that and much more quickly, probably pushing the Fed funds rate below 2% in 2025 if history is any guide.

## Bond Yields

Bond yields normally lead the Fed lower and typically fall in anticipation of future rate cuts. Prior to the Fed's September rate cut, the two-year Treasury yield had already fallen 160bp, and the 10-year yield had fallen about 140bp. Some bankers may believe bond yields have already fallen enough and will not fall further. History suggests this may not be the case. During each of the last five easing cycles in 1984, 1989, 2000, 2007

and 2019, bond yields actually fell more after the first rate cut than before. If you average the moves during those five easing cycles, the two-year yield fell an average of 141bp prior to the first rate cut but fell an additional 405bp after the first rate cut. The 10-year yield fell an average of 126bp before the first rate cut and then fell a further 308bp after. This suggests bond yields may have much further to fall during this easing cycle, and banks should prepare their investment portfolios and balance sheets for lower rates in the years ahead.

## Bond Portfolio

Bank bond portfolios depreciated significantly as the Fed hiked rates aggressively in 2022–2023 and remain at an unrealized loss despite the recent drop in rates. And banks have purchased far fewer bonds in the last 12–18 months, with yields near 5% than they did in 2020–2021 when yields were near record low levels. In fact, some banks have not purchased a bond in the last two years. This means those banks will not have any unrealized gains in the portfolio that they could use to offset potential loan losses, which may occur if the economy enters recession in 2025 or beyond. Banks should be actively participating in this market by adding bonds to their portfolios while yields remain higher than in 16 out of the last 17 years.

All banks should maintain a written investment strategy to help manage risk and maximize performance. This strategy should be focused on preparing the portfolio for an extended period of falling rates punctuated with shorter periods of yield retracements. This means banks should be focused on buying longer durations (assuming their risk profile allows that) and bonds with good call protection and prepayment protection. The goal is to build a diversified portfolio with stable cash flow by adding higher-yielding bonds that will maintain that yield even as rates fall. The last thing banks need during this easing cycle is a lot of callable bonds that will get called away or MBS/CMO that will



***“All banks should maintain a written investment strategy to help manage risk and maximize performance.”***

experience significant levels of prepayment risk if rates fall. The focus should be on good structures with stable cash flows and avoid chasing yield in nontraditional, riskier securities.

**Interest Rate Risk**

Most community banks experience margin compression as rates fall and margins are already at the lowest level they have ever been entering an easing cycle. During the 2000 and 2007 easing cycles, community banks lost an average of 40bp of margin as rates fell, and they lost 75bp in 2019–2022 as the pandemic drove margins to a record low. Banks should be actively positioning their balance sheets to protect margins before rates move lower. This generally means becoming more liability-sensitive with longer, more fixed-rate assets and shorter liabilities. Banks should review their most recent interest rate risk reports to determine if the changes in margin income and the economic value of equity in a falling rate environment are acceptable. If not, the time to make adjustments to the balance sheet is now. ■



*Ryan W. Hayhurst is president of The Baker Group, a broker/dealer focused on helping community banks manage their investment portfolios and interest rate risk. Contact: 800/937-2257 or ryan@GoBaker.com.*



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# CHECK Writing Down **BUT** Fraud Skyrockets

Patti Tobin, Producer, Financial Practices Division  
Community Bank Insurance Services, A Gallagher Company, Springfield, Illinois

**F**ormal check-writing has fallen out of favor with technological advances such as online banking, Venmo, etc. However, check fraud remains the most common type of deposit fraud because it's low-tech and provides access to pools of potential victims. Deposit fraud losses report check fraud at 47%, while debit card is at 44%, and electronic banking is at 4%. A staggering 680,000 check fraud SARs were reported to FinCEN in 2022.



**Internal control practices can help stop most check fraud attempts. Such as:**

Altered Check/Forged Signatures	Counterfeit Check	Drawn on Closed Accounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review checks for signs of alteration.</li> <li>• Compare signature with ID.</li> <li>• Delay cashing a check to verify all signatures as genuine. The perpetrator may leave rather than risk arrest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check for low-quality paper and ink smears.</li> <li>• Pay extra care to large-value and low-sequence number checks.</li> <li>• Be certain the check was issued by a legitimate bank.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place hold on inactive accounts.</li> <li>• Send letters to customers with inactive accounts.</li> <li>• Advise customers to destroy checks from closed accounts.</li> </ul>

In the event your community bank becomes the victim of check fraud, the Illinois UCC rules apply. Liability could be the customer's, the bank of first deposit ((BOFD), or the drawee bank depending upon the nature of the fraud.

- **Altered Check.** If the check amount is altered, the BOFD is liable, and the drawee bank can file a Breach of Warranty v. BOFD to recoup the loss.
- **Counterfeit Check.** If the check itself is counterfeit, the drawee bank holds liability, but the bank could hold the customer responsible if they failed to report within the allotted timeframe according to the written agreement.
- **Forged Endorsement.** If the endorsement is missing or incomplete/forged, the BOFD is liable, but the drawee bank can file a Breach of Warranty against the BOFD to recoup the loss.
- **Forged Signature.** If the signature on the back is forged, the drawee bank is liable, but again, the bank could hold the customer responsible if they failed to meet notification requirements by written agreement.

***In all cases, refer to Illinois UCC rules for guidance.***

Fake check scams are difficult to stop, but we can all assist in knowing what to do if we get a check from someone we don't know. Be on the alert!

Community banks often express their concerns with us on wire coverage as well. The best practice to prevent wire fraud is to ensure the community bank has a written agreement with all customers prior to wiring funds.

The written agreement should outline your customer's preferences regarding the transfer of funds from a particular account. Again, you should have a written agreement in place **prior** to the first wire transfer request in order to avoid any confusion about their wishes. The agreement should:

- Include the customer's explicit authorization for the bank to execute wires and the means by which wire transfer requests may be requested (e.g., via email, telephone or in person);
- Contain the names of all individuals granted authority by the customer to initiate such requests; and
- Outline a commercially reasonable security procedure that will be utilized by the bank and the customer to authenticate all requests. ■

**A SAMPLE Wire Transfer Agreement has been included for your reference:**

**SAMPLE: Wire Transfer Agreement**

"Customer/Business Name" authorizes "Community Bank Name" to transmit wire transfers. Only authorized personnel can perform wire transfers at the bank. The customer must notify the bank immediately of any changes to the authorized personnel list. If the bank has not been notified of any changes, the bank is not responsible for any fraudulent wires by authorized personnel.

Types of allowable functions:

- 1 = All transactions
- 2 = Initiate only
- 3 = Verify only

Authorized Personnel	Dollar Limitations	Allowable Function	(1, 2, or 3)
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	

Callbacks will be made for wires initiated via telephone, email or FAX in excess of "Insert FI Bond Deductible Amount \$."

Bank Signature _____	Customer Signature _____
Dated _____	Dated _____

Source: ABA.com/news  
Source: FinCEN.gov

For more information on this subject, please contact Patti Tobin, CIC, insurance advisor, Area Financial Institutions director, Community BancInsurance Services, a division of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., the exclusively endorsed insurance representative of CBAI/CBSC. 217/414-4485 or patti\_tobin@ajg.com.

**This article is provided for informational purposes only and is not necessarily the views of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.**





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# GENERATIONAL TRENDS SHAPING GROWTH GOALS

*Advantage: Powered by JMFA*

## Is Modernizing Your Legacy Systems Part of the 2025 Strategic Plan?

In today's competitive financial landscape, understanding generational preferences is crucial for community banks and credit unions aiming to grow their market share and effectively compete with big banks. Insights from a recent BAI report reveal how different generations value distinct features from their primary financial institution (PFI). To attract and retain new account holders, it's vital not only to recognize these preferences but also to implement the right digital tools to meet and surpass their expectations.

## Tailoring Strategies for Every Generation

Different generations have unique priorities when choosing a primary financial institution (PFI). Here's a breakdown of what each group seeks:

- **Baby Boomers:** Value convenience, reputation and comprehensive financial services. They look for high-yield money market accounts, wealth management options, and reliable peer-to-peer (P2P) payment solutions.
- **Gen X:** Prioritize convenience, solid reputation and competitive rates, similar to Boomers, with an added emphasis on practical financial management tools.

- **Millennials:** Seek cash incentives, budgeting tools and financial education. Millennials aged 18 to 24 prefer institutions offering these resources, while 81% are willing to switch for a better digital experience. They also prioritize no-fee banking.
- **Gen Z:** Seek seamless digital experiences and mobile-centric services. Although they heavily rely on technology, they still value the reassurance of physical branches for added security.

## Meeting the Digital Demands

To stay competitive with big banks, you must offer the right blend of digital capabilities and consumer-focused services. And while Baby Boomers and Gen X value branch and ATM convenience, Gen Z's expectations are rooted in a seamless digital experience. Despite their reliance on digital platforms, Gen Z still finds physical branches important for peace of mind.

This means having robust technology that integrates smoothly with what consumers want when it comes to banking. Ensuring you have the digital tools and platforms to offer a compelling user experience is essential. It could involve upgrading existing systems or finding new vendors that align with your goals.

***“To attract and retain new account holders, it’s vital not only to recognize these preferences but also to implement the right digital tools to meet and surpass their expectations.”***

### Essential Offerings for Growth

Baby Boomers and Gen X are significant demographics with substantial wealth, so focusing on high-value services and competitive rates is crucial. However, Millennials and Gen Z are attracted to features like cash incentives and advanced digital tools. Understanding these preferences is not enough — it takes having the technology to deliver them effectively.

For instance, Millennials are more likely to switch PFIs for a better mobile app, highlighting the importance of investing in top-notch digital solutions. Gen X values competitive rates but also seeks out financial institutions with strong reputations and convenient service options.

### Overcoming Tech Challenges with Strategic Support

Integrating and upgrading technology can be complex, often presenting challenges for community banks and credit unions that may be understaffed. This is where strategic partnerships become invaluable. Collaborating with experts who specialize in working closely with the industry’s technology vendors can help seamlessly enhance your digital capabilities without being overwhelmed by the process.

Such partnerships can offer the expertise needed to implement and manage advanced systems, ensuring your FI can offer the digital features that consumers demand. The added support will save you time and energy and help develop an effective action plan. This approach not only helps keep up with industry standards and an evolving marketplace but also keeps you ahead of competitors.

### Preparing for the Future

As Millennials and Gen Z are poised to inherit significant wealth by 2030, there’s a unique opportunity to attract and retain these younger audiences. However, focusing solely on these younger generations without neglecting existing account holders can be a delicate balance. Baby Boomers and Gen X should also be considered in strategic planning to avoid alienating any demographic.

Implementing a comprehensive strategy that addresses the needs of all generations while leveraging the right technology is essential for sustainable growth. By doing so, you’ll not only meet current consumer expectations but also be well-positioned to adapt to future demands.

### Conclusion

To thrive in a competitive environment and grow market share, it takes aligning your offerings with generational preferences and investing in the necessary digital tools. By understanding what each generation values and partnering with the right technology vendors, you can enhance the user experience and stay competitive with national banks. This balanced approach will help attract new account holders while retaining your existing base, ultimately driving long-term success. ■

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# CBAI Past Chair Spotlight



## Sheila Burcham

*Market President*

*Bradford National Bank, Irvington*

### **When did you serve as chair of CBAI?**

I served from 2023–2024.

### **What is your current position at the bank?**

I am the market president for Bradford National Bank, Irvington.

### **How long have you been in community banking?**

I have been in banking for 42 years, since 1982.

### **How/why did you become involved with CBAI and the CBAI Board?**

I have been involved with CBAI since the Young Bankers Division, now the Career Development Division, was formed. I attended many seminars and group meetings and developed a desire to become more involved with the association.

*“The best part is getting to know so many people throughout the state in our industry.”*

### **What did you enjoy the most about serving as chair?**

The best part is getting to know so many people throughout the state in our industry. There are great community bankers in Illinois.

### **What are the most memorable events or accomplishments from your tenure?**

I enjoyed all the events that I attended advocating on behalf of the association and community banking, but I really enjoyed attending the Association Meeting with the FHLBC prior to their Leadership Meeting.

### **What are your expectations for the future of community banking and the association?**

I believe that the community banking environment will have many challenges in the future: fierce competition from credit unions and federal agencies such as Farm Credit, a continually changing regulatory environment, and an increasing need for technological advances in our products and services. I believe the association will need to continue in its mission and be dynamic enough in its vision to change as our industry changes. However, we have always risen to the occasion, and I expect nothing less from our community bankers going forward.

### **What are your future plans?**

Personally, many things have changed for me over the last two years, but one thing is for certain, I will always be advocating for the community banking industry in whatever capacity or position I have. ■



## Cassidy Carns

*Executive Assistant to the President  
First National Bank in Pinckneyville*

### What do you find the most challenging about your job?

The most challenging aspect of my job in community banking would be keeping up with the ever-changing world around us. As a community banker, I wear multiple hats and balance many different roles within my position, such as protecting our customers from the constant threat of fraud, educating customers in the best manner to have the tools to protect themselves and their funds while also managing the constantly changing HR regulations to ensure the team is functioning to its utmost potential. Challenges never seem to be few and far between; however, our team can overcome each challenge that is sent our way as community bankers.

### What do you find the most rewarding about your job?

As a community banker, the most rewarding part of my job is the relationships that we are able to establish with our customers. When we can provide our customers with a smiling, familiar face to greet them by name, it allows the customer to place their trust in us.

## CDD SPOTLIGHT QUESTIONNAIRE

*“As a community banker, the most rewarding part of my job is the relationships that we are able to establish with our customers.”*

### What quote most inspires you and why?

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.” I am most inspired by this quote as it is a daily reminder that when faced with challenges, personally or at your job, if you can maintain an optimistic outlook, it can change the outcome dramatically.

### How did you get involved with CBAI?

Since starting with the bank in 2016, I have had the opportunity to attend the CBAI Women in Banking Conference multiple times. More recently, in 2023, I joined the HR Forum, and in 2024, I joined CDD. The connections I have been able to make through CBAI have been such a useful tool for me in my position.

### What is something most people don't know about you?

Most people wouldn't know that I am a huge football fan! My husband has been a lifetime Dallas Cowboys fan, so I have titled myself a Cowboys fan by proxy. We love the family time we spend together watching the game with our two young boys, Bryson (8) and Oliver (2). My oldest son, Bryson, also plays youth football — Go Dawgs! I find it so enjoyable to watch him compete and cheer him on as his biggest fan!

### What is your favorite initiative that your bank has implemented to support your community?

Although our community bank is deeply involved with our community and provides support in many different ways, one of my favorite initiatives would have to be Denim Dollar Days. Each employee donates \$3 to wear jeans on Fridays. These funds are then donated and dispersed to many different causes in our community. It is very rewarding for each employee to give to our community directly, and the appreciation is so apparent from the community.

### If you weren't in banking, what would you be doing, and why?

If I were not in banking, I would love to own a bakery. It has been a recent hobby of mine to create lots of different sour-dough breads and desserts from scratch. I have enjoyed creating new recipes and making my own adjustments. It is also rewarding to watch others enjoy the foods I have created. ■



CBAI FEDPAC FUNDRAISER —

# Another Victory!



**CBAI's Championship FedPac Team**

CBAI extends a big **THANK YOU** to the many community bankers, associate members and sponsors for stepping up to the plate and supporting CBAI FedPac!

This game was an afternoon match-up between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Milwaukee Brewers. The enthusiastic crowd in our Redbird Row suite saw the Cards prevail by breaking a scoreless tie with late-inning runs to clinch a 3–0 win.

This game was a terrific opportunity for team members to get together and have some fun while supporting a great cause. Several players were new to the league of FedPac supporters, and many others brought their teammates, which made for a great mix of veteran players and rookies.

CBAI FedPac was created to enhance the voice of Illinois community banks in Washington, D.C. CBAI FedPac is a valuable tool for community bankers to exert a strong and proactive influence by supporting those members of Congress who believe in our mission to compete and to serve our customers and communities.

Participation in an event like this is an enjoyable and effective way to

contribute to CBAI FedPac and get involved. CBAI sincerely thanks all our championship team members for their support for the CBAI FedPac.

Thank you to our generous sponsors! ■

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# Foundation Report

## CBAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS\*

The following banks were awarded scholarships to the Community Bankers School for 2024–2025:

**Beardstown Savings, s.b. (*The Baker Group Scholarship*)**  
**Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Nashville**  
*(Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago Scholarship)*  
**First Community Bank of Hillsboro (*CBAI Career Development Division Scholarship*)**  
**North Adams State Bank, Ursa (*Howard & Howard Attorneys Scholarship*)**

The following students were awarded the Child/Grandchild of a Banker Scholarship for \$1,000 per year for up to four years to continue their educations:

**Ava Fiedler, Lena State Bank (*Community BancService Corporation Scholarship*)**  
**Onjue Lor Turnbough, Better Banks, Peoria, IL**  
*(Kasasa Scholarship)*  
**Zachary Waldeck, First National Bank of Raymond**  
*(SHAZAM Scholarship)*

\*To be eligible, banks must simply pledge/donate a minimum of \$2,500 to the CBAI Foundation, which is tax deductible. While payments may be made over a period of years, banks are eligible for the scholarship drawings with their first payment.

### Rockin' Out for the Foundation Karaoke Competition Donors

#### Individuals

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**Total Wine Pull Income: \$1,940**

Board and committee members of the CBAI corporate family donating travel expenses to the Foundation are **David Albin, Longview Capital Corporation, Newman; Jeff Bonnett, Havana National Bank; Sheila Burcham, Bradford National Bank; Will Coolley, Longview Capital Corporation, Newman; Shawn Davis, CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville; Michael Gill, Flora Bank & Trust; Dan Graham, Flora Bank and Trust; Mary Jo Homan, First National Bank in Pinckneyville; Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon; Gregg Roegge, Rushville State Bank; Ken Scott, Preferred Bank, Casey; Jason Semple, Dieterich Bank, Effingham; David Stanton, PeopleFirst Bank, Joliet; Alan Stremlau, Illini State Bank, Tonica.**

The Foundation received \$120 from CBSC and CBAI board members as a result of the “dress-down” board meeting in August.

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# In Memoriam

**David Wesley Combs**, 87, of Taylorville, passed away on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at the Villas East in Sherman. He was born on April 1, 1937, in Hillsboro, the son of Shaw and Olive (Welker) Combs. He married Sally Thomas Williams on April 20, 1962, in Hillsboro, and she preceded him in death on October 5, 2013. **Combs** grew up on the family farm in Coffeen, and he was always proud of his family's farming heritage. He graduated from Hillsboro High School and went on to graduate from the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wisconsin. **Combs** proudly served our country in the U.S. Army from 1956–1959, serving more than two years in Korea as a private SP4. For many years, he continued to serve in the VFW in many roles, including calling the commands for the honor guard for 40 years. He was a member of the Taylorville First United Methodist Church and a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the American Quarter Horse Association. In keeping with his farming background and his love of watching westerns, listening to country music, and riding through the farmlands, he was also the proud owner of horses throughout the years, including his current horse, Ranger.

**Combs** began his career as a bank teller, working his way up to president and CEO of the **First National Bank in Taylorville**. He retired after a career of 54 years, including 25 years as president. **Combs** also served as a director on the boards of First Bancorp and West Main Reality Group for 43 years.

**Combs** was a founding member of the former Independent Community Banks in Illinois (now Community Bankers Association of Illinois) and served as president from 1983–1984. He also served on several other banking association boards. He and Sally enjoyed their many travels and conventions throughout the U.S., especially the Southwest.

He is survived by his children: Kelley Williams Davidson (John) of Springfield; Shawne Combs Woodard of Tremont; and Shad Combs (Patti Quinn) of Pendleton, Indiana; grandsons Jacob Davidson (Devyn), Charlie Woodard (Gabby), and granddaughter Wesley Sloan (Tyler); great-grandchildren Owen Davidson and Eleanor Sloan; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and siblings, Loren Combs, Jack Combs and Nora Kuple.

**William “Bill” S. McFadden**, 83, of Apple River, Illinois, passed away on September 11, 2024, in Apple

River. **McFadden** was born on May 30, 1941, in Freeport, Illinois, to Mayne and Lucille (Groom) McFadden. He was a 1959 graduate of Warren High School, and he attended agriculture courses at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. On June 15, 1968, McFadden was united in marriage to Joanne Hesselbacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Scales Mound. He owned and operated MGM farms.

Faith, family and farming were the three words that could best describe Bill. His leadership and contribution to countless organizations in the greater Jo Daviess County area and beyond will carry on forever. He was a director at **Apple River State Bank**. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Apple River and St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Naples, Florida. **McFadden's** greatest accomplishment in his life was his family, especially his grandchildren. He was a proud papa and went to everything they were involved in, from sporting events to marching band.

**McFadden** is survived by his loving wife, Joanne, and their three children, Amy (Dewayne) Johnson of Norwalk, Iowa, Dr. Mike (Alane) McFadden of Stockton, Illinois, and Julie (Todd Wells) Morrison of Geneva, Illinois; his grandchildren, Lucas Johnson, Emilee (Tim) Vandenburg, Jakob Fransen, Julianne Wilmot, Alivia McFadden, Will Morrison and Charlie Morrison; one great-granddaughter, Elsie Vandenburg; and two sisters, Nyla (Roger Hervey) Goken and Nancy (William) Lilliott.

He was preceded in death by his parents. ■



# Member News



Jason Knoedler

**Jason Knoedler, Bank of Springfield**, recently joined the CBAI Board as the Group 9 director. Knoedler is the chief executive officer and vice chairman of the board for the Bank of Springfield (BOS). He is co-chairman of the ICBA Housing and Finance Committee, vice chairman of the CBSC Innovation Committee, and a member of the CBAI Legislation and Regulations

Committee. He currently sits on the St. John's Hospital Board, Springfield Sangamon County Growth Alliance Board, Springfield Southwest Baseball Association Board, Citizens Bank of Edinburg Board, and is a trustee of the YMCA of Springfield. He and his wife, Melissa, have three children and live in Springfield, Illinois.

**Rick Catt** will be retiring as president/CEO of **First Robinson Savings Bank, N.A.**, effective November 30, 2024. Catt has served in this role since August 1, 1989. He began his banking career at First National Bank of Oblong in 1974. During his 50-year tenure in banking, he has worked in practically every department in banking. He will remain on the bank's board of directors.



Mark Hill

**Mark Hill** will succeed Rick Catt as president/CEO of First Robinson Savings Bank. Hill started his banking career in 1992 at First National Bank of Oblong. In 1998, he joined First Robinson Savings Bank, most recently serving as vice president/ chief lending officer. He graduated from CBAI Community Banking School in 2001 and the Graduate School of Banking in Madison,

Wisconsin, in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Science in business finance from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**Ben Wurmnest**, an ag loan officer at **Bank of Gibson City**, has been named one of the Top 20 Under 40 Illinois Farmers by the Illinois Soybean Association. His dedication to agriculture and his outstanding contributions to the community earned him this prestigious recognition.

**Neil Gurnsey, Petefish, Skiles and Co. Bank, Virginia**, has been selected as the 2024 Petersburg First Citizen. Gurnsey is not only a valuable employee to the bank, he is also a significant leader in his community.

**The First National Bank in Amboy** is pleased to welcome **Sage Arellano**. He will serve as branch manager and loan officer at the bank's Monroe Center branch.

After more than 28 incredible years with **CNB Bank & Trust, N.A., Carlinville, Susie Montgomery** has retired from the bank. She has been an integral part of the team, consistently providing outstanding service to customers and contributing to the bank's success with her dedication and expertise. ■

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