



# Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce

*“Moving Forward With A Purpose”*

*December 2008 News*

## 2008 Genoa Chamber

### Board of Directors

- **Jim Wilson, President**  
Edward Jones Investments
- **Melissa Payne, V. P.**  
Northern Rehabilitation
- **Carolyn McIntyre**  
Reflections Hair Salon
- **Pat Solar**  
City of Genoa
- **Sandy Spier**  
Poppy Seed Primitives
- **Darren Stanek**  
The Oak Club
- **Mirna Swineheart**  
Citizens First National Bank
- **Mark Thurlby**  
Custom Aluminum Products
- **Carolyn Tobinson**  
Tobinson's Ace Hardware
- **Dr. Scott Wakeley**  
Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424
- **Bonnie Hanson**  
**Executive Director**, Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce

Visit our web site at::

[genoa-il-chamberofcommerce.com](http://genoa-il-chamberofcommerce.com)

E-Mail: [genoachamb@tbcnet.com](mailto:genoachamb@tbcnet.com)

Phone/fax: 815-784-2212

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## Please take a moment and vote...

### Ballot For 2009 Chamber Board Members

It is time to cast your ballot for three new members of the Genoa Chamber Board of Directors to replace outgoing board members whose three year terms expire in February of 2009.

Each of the following candidates is an active member in good standing and has agreed to accept the responsibility of a directorship if elected. To comply with Article IV, Section 1 of the by-laws you must vote for each of the three or you may write in a candidate.

#### RETAIL DIVISION

Jerry Klein of Varsity Pub

#### GENERAL DIVISION

Heather Criddle of Resource Bank

#### NON-PROFIT & GOVERNMENTAL BODIES DIVISION

Brad Shortridge of G-K School District

Please take a moment of your time right now and exercise your right as a Chamber member to vote for a dedicated person who can be personally involved and who understands the needs of the business and industrial community.

The ballots should be mailed back to or dropped off at the Genoa Chamber office at 327 W. Main St. not later than Monday, December 15. You may also FAX your ballot to (815)784-2212 or e-mail your choices to [genoachamb@tbcnet.com](mailto:genoachamb@tbcnet.com).

I VOTE FOR:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

2	Christmas Party—Varsity Pub 5 to 8 p.m.
5	Ambassador Meeting 8:15 a.m.
5	Celebrate The Season 5 to 8 p.m.
17	Chamber Board Meeting 8:15a.m.—Spring Grove
18	Monthly Membership Luncheon—Resource Bank 11:30-1:00
25	Christmas

**Upcoming Events...**

- December 2nd Chamber Christmas Party—5 to 8pm  
The Varsity Pub
- December 5th Celebrate The Season Event — 5 to 8 pm
- December 6th Feed The Need Concert —Genoa Vets 7pm
- Annual Meeting in February 2008
- Genoa Area Home & Garden Expo March 7th 10-4  
Genoa-Kingston High School

**President's Corner— Jim Wilson****Everyone Can Win with Charitable Gifts**

When you give a gift to a charitable group, you are rewarded by the knowledge that you're helping an organization whose work you support. But you can also get a "bonus" from your gift — in the form of tax benefits. Specifically, your donations to charities that have received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are usually tax deductible, assuming you itemize your tax return. And as long as your total contributions for any one year are 50 percent or less of your adjusted gross income, there's no limit on the deductions you can take for your gifts to public charities.

Furthermore, your contributions may entitle you to more than just a tax deduction in the year in which you make your gift. If you decide to donate shares of stock, a piece of real estate or another asset that has increased in value since you purchased it, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that will be due on the asset when it's sold.

Clearly, your charitable giving can provide you with some significant tax benefits. But if you're interested in going even deeper into the world of charitable gifts, you'll find that they can play a role in some of your long-term financial strategies, as well.

Consider, for instance, how you might use a charitable remainder trust. You'd start by donating an asset — such as appreciated stocks, bonds or real estate — to the trust, which is managed by a trustee. The trustee, in turn, could sell the asset (relieving you of immediate capital gains liabilities), reinvest the proceeds and then make regular payments to you or another beneficiary you named when you established the trust. So you could set up the trust to provide yourself, or one or more family members, with an income stream for life or for a designated number of years. After the lifetime of the last surviving beneficiary, or at the end of the specified term, the trust would end, and any remaining assets would then be distributed to the charity you'd named.

Setting up a charitable remainder trust is not as easy as filling out a few forms; to do it correctly, you'll need to work with your legal and tax advisors. And once you establish such a trust, you'll find it can have considerable impact on some of the decisions affecting your retirement income. For example, if you could count on an income stream from a charitable remainder trust, you might be able to withdraw less money each year from your investments and retirement accounts, such as your 401(k) and IRA, to meet your income needs in retirement. In fact, if you were to receive this trust-generated income, it might even affect the type of investments you need to make before retirement, possibly changing the balance somewhat between "growth" and "income."

In any case, consider being as generous as you can afford in your support of worthwhile charitable organizations. But if you incorporate your charitable giving into your long-term investment picture, you'll need to make the right moves — so prepare carefully.

## November Membership Lunch Meeting

City Administrator Joe Misurelli delivered a Genoa economic development progress report to members of the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce.

Misurelli said both houses of Congress have approved an Amtrak funding bill that includes adding service along the Canadian National Railroad line from Chicago to Dubuque, Iowa. Along the way, the trains would stop in Genoa, Rockford, Freeport and Galena. However, the new service cannot become reality until the state legislature approves matching operating funds and a state capital spending bill that includes money to build stations and sidings along the way.

Misurelli said the city has made tremendous progress in landing and keeping retailers. Between 1998 and 2003, total retail sales went up just 1.96 percent. But from 1994 to 2007 they tripled, from about \$26 million to about \$72 million.

The city has transformed during the year:

- When Ace Hardware moved to a new building along Illinois 23, many feared the old Ace store downtown would become vacant. But NAPA Auto Parts moved in.
- Laughing Cat Antiques opened in another vacant building on Main Street.
- Prairie State Winery took over a former body shop and did an "adaptive reuse" of that building with the help of a "planned unit development" classification from the city council.
- Genoa Motorsports moved into another vacant site.
- Genoa Motors expanded.



## December Membership Lunch Meeting

Patrick Solar  
Chief of Police  
City of Genoa

Thursday, December 18

Networking 11:30

Lunch & Presentation 12-1  
Resource Bank Community  
Room

Lunch provided by Subway  
choice of Turkey, Ham or  
Roast Beef — \$8 per person

RSVP by December 15th

## Coming Soon

Recently you received a letter regarding the Genoa Area Chamber Guide. We encourage all of our members to take advantage of the low advertising rates on this widely distributed area guide. This is a valuable marketing tool for your company and just one of the many benefits of Chamber membership for 2009.

### **Genoa Chamber Ambassador Club**

**Chair, Sherry Barnes**  
*Trademark Properties*

- **Co-Chair, Nicole Moore**  
*Resource Bank*
- **Evelyn Cooley**  
*Wild Thyme Herb Garden*
- **Carolyn McIntyre**  
*Reflections Hair Salon*
- **Marlin Chaplin**  
*Trademark Properties*
- **Noreen Conro**  
*Brown's County Market*
- **Heather Criddle**  
*Resource Bank*
- **Nikki Gallamore**  
*Trademark Properties*
- **Mike Goelitz**  
*Citizens 1st National Bank*
- **Joanne Johnson**  
*Resource Bank*
- **Gail Spranger**  
*Sycamore Precision*
- **Mirna Swineheart**  
*Citizens 1st National Bank*
- **Carolyn Tobinson**  
*Tobinson's Ace Hardware*
- **Jamie Ullmark**  
*American Family Insurance*
- **Frank Turza**  
*NB&T*

*Come on in, out of the cold and warm up with us at our  
Annual Chamber Christmas Party*

*Where: The Varsity Pub*

*When: Tuesday, December 2, 2008*

*5:00 PM to 8:00 PM*

*Hors d'oeuvres will be served*

*Early Bird Raffle for \$200 at 6:00 PM*

*Cost \$10.00 per person*

*RSVP by December 1st and receive a free drink coupon*

**FEED THE NEED  
CONCERT**

100% OF ALL MONEY GOES TO  
THE G-K FOOD PANTRY

Genoa Vets Club  
Saturday, December 6th

Doors open at 7:00

Featuring: The Menagerie &  
Funkyluv

Good for all ages

Cost \$5

**Mark Your Calendars**

***Annual Meeting***

Thursday, February 12  
The Oak Club  
Dinner 6:00

1 free dinner with the  
purchase of a \$100  
Raffle ticket

Grand Prize Winner  
\$2000

To make your  
reservations call  
815-784-2212

**CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN GENOA**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 \* 5:00 TO 8:00 P.M.**

**SANTA'S JINGLE BELL PARADE AT 6:00 PM**

**ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:**

*Santa arrives in town at the end of his parade at 6:15 p.m.*

*Community Tree Lighting at 6:20 p.m.*

*Carriage Rides, Live Reindeer for petting & pictures with Santa at this home, Food booths, Storyteller, Live nativity, Carolers, Raffles, Games, Coat, hat & mitten drive, Crafts for kids and much more.....Come and enjoy!!!*

COMMITTEE: Chairman Jamie Ullmark, Frank Turza, Heather Criddle, Mirna Swineheart, Nicole Moore, Evelyn Cooley and Bonnie Hanson

**Welcome New Member**

The Chamber welcomes our  
newest member:

**State Senator  
Brad Burzynski**

1101 DeKalb Ave  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
815-895-6318

[www.senatorbrad@verizon.net](mailto:www.senatorbrad@verizon.net)

[www.senatorbrad.com](http://www.senatorbrad.com)

**Summary of Chamber Board Minutes: November 19, 2008 Meeting**

**Those in Attendance:**

Jim Wilson  
Melissa Payne  
Pat Solar  
Sandy Spier  
Darren Stanek  
Mark Thurlby  
Scott Wakeley  
Bonnie Hanson

Minutes & treasurer's report  
reviewed and approved.

Business relations:  
No report

Economic Development:  
12/3 EDC meeting planned

Finance committee: Dues  
mailing by 12/8/08.

Public relations:  
No report

Nominating Committee: Scott W  
reported that (3) candidates are  
ready for election to 2009 Board.

Executive Director: Reported Strate-  
gic planning meeting on 12/9 &  
12/11, Expo, Celebrate The Season,  
Membership Meetings, Area Guide

Other Business: Welcome bags dis-  
cussed, Chamber sign on Rt 23 to be  
moved this month.

Adjourned until December 17, 2008.

# December 2008

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Christmas Party</i> <i>Varsity Pub 5-8</i>	3	4	5 <i>Celebrate The</i> <i>Season 5-8</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Board</i> <i>Meeting 8:15</i>	18 <i>Membership</i> <i>Lunch 11:30-1:00</i>	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>New Years</i> <i>Eve</i>			



**Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce**

327 W. Main Street

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Phone/fax 815-784-2212

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[WWW.GENOA-IL-CHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.COM](http://WWW.GENOA-IL-CHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.COM)

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