



metrowestcog.org

Serving the municipalities of
DeKalb, Kane and Kendall Counties

Winter 2016

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Let us help you share your good news! Send any honors, articles or photos you would like included in a future edition of the Metro West e-newsletter to metrowest1565@sbcglobal.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



May 3 and 4 Springfield Drive Down.

We have secured a block of rooms at The State House Inn for May 2nd and 3rd; *we will be coordinating all hotel reservations for the group, so please do not contact them directly.*

On the evening of May 3 will be joining DuPage Mayors and Managers to host a reception for legislators at the Springfield Wyndham. For those of you who attended last year, we joined IML at the Governor's Mansion to network with our legislators. *More details, including registration information, will follow shortly. As space is limited, we ask you to register as soon as possible.*

Metro West Board Meeting February 25.

The next Metro West Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25 in the Parkview Suite at the Tap House Grill, 123 Washington Street in Oswego. Registration and networking begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members of Metro West. Prior reservations are required; please contact us at metrowest1565@sbcglobal.net if you would like to attend.

2016 LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Metro West's annual legislative dinner was held on January 21, 2016 at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva IL. This event provided an excellent networking opportunity for the approximately 110 attendees as they listened to state legislators discuss some of our top legislative priorities. President Matt Brolley presented questions about the importance of maintaining local control, especially concerning a property tax freeze and our support for the Marketplace Fairness Act. After responding to our questions, the legislators discussed the 2016

Legislative Session and how it may affect municipalities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Senators and Representatives who participated: Senators Linda Holmes and Sue Rezin; and Representatives Steve Andersson, Tom Demmer and Michael Fortner. We would also like to thank Comcast, who helped sponsor this event.

To learn more about Metro West's legislative priorities for the current year, please visit our website at <http://www.metrowestcog.org>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Federal Act Adopts New Standard for Crude Oil Transport

On December 4th, President Obama signed into law a long-awaited federal transportation funding re-authorization bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which provides \$305 billion over five years for the nation's transportation systems. You can read the entire bill at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/22/text>. Summarized below are some of the law's provisions concerning the transportation of crude oil by rail.

Expands the May 2015 US DOT regulation that required all tank cars transporting crude oil and other hazardous liquids to meet new and safer specifications. The Fast Act requires that an estimated 40,000 additional tank cars be retrofitted to meet the new DOT-117, DOT-117P or DOT-117R specifications and establishes a timeline to phase-out non-compliant tank cars.

Requires that all new and retrofitted tanker cars carrying crude oil and ethanol be equipped with 'thermal blankets'--insulation technology designed to improve safety by better containing fires. The tank cars must also have stronger, protective housing around pressure valves to prevent equipment from getting sheared off in a derailment.

Increases reporting requirements. By the end of 2016, the US DOT must issue regulations requiring railroads to provide state emergency response officials with information regarding the transport of hazardous materials, including information on the type and quantity of materials, the train's point of origin and destination, and emergency contacts.

ComEd Announces Grant Opportunities For Municipalities

ComEd has announced two grant opportunities available to municipalities:

ComEd Green Region. In partnership with Openlands, ComEd to award funding for open-space projects. This is the fourth year of the program, which has supported 63 projects in 16 counties in ComEd's service territory. For more information visit: www.openlands.org/GreenRegion

ComEd Powering Safe Communities. In partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, this grant targets initiatives that support safety in our neighborhoods. For more information visit: [http://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/psee- 2/](http://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/psee-2/)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BUSINESS PARTNERS

Metro West is pleased to welcome the following new business partners:



For more information about Azavar Audit Solutions, contact Jason Perry or Scott Shamber at 312.583.0100, via email at jperry@azavar.com or sshamberg@azavar.com, or visit their website at www.azavaraudit.com.

Azavar Audit Solutions, 55 East Jackson, Suite 2100, Chicago IL 60604



Municipalities rely on Gardiner Koch Weisberg & Wrona to represent them in varied litigation: discrimination and retaliatory discharge claims; contract disputes and municipal tax contests; negotiation of union contracts, proposed zoning code revisions and challenges to municipal ordinances; police brutality, malicious prosecution, false arrest and constitutional rights cases. In addition, GKWW has defended municipalities against claims of housing discrimination and political firings and hiring; and has handled disputes with real estate developers and matters involving annexation agreements.

For more information about Gardiner Koch Weisberg & Wrona, contact Thomas G. Gardiner at 312.362.000, via email at tgardiner@gkwwlaw.com or visit their website at www.gkwwlaw.com

Gardiner Koch Weisberg & Wrona, 53 West Jackson, Suite 950, Chicago IL 60604

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our continuing business partners:

Our Gold Level Business Partners:

AT&T, Comcast, ComEd, Engineering Enterprises Inc., HR Green Inc., Kathleen Field Orr & Associates, Mickey Wilson Weiler Renzi & Andersson PC, Nicor Gas, Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo Ltd, Rich Harvest Farms, Sikich LLP

Our Silver Level Business Partners:

Call One Telecommunications, CDM Smith, Chastain & Associates LLC, Larson & Darby Group, MB Financial Bank, Mesirow Financial, Metro Strategies Inc, Robert Arthur Land Company, Robinson Engineering Ltd, Trotter & Associates Inc., Wine Sergi Insurance

The Metro West Council of Government Business Partners Program provides marketing and networking opportunities for private-sector businesses that share a common commitment to the well-being of municipalities in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. Business Partners enjoy heightened visibility among member communities' elected officials and staff by participating in annual events, workshops, publications and sponsorship opportunities. More information is available at our website <http://www.metrowestcog.org/business-partners.aspx>

Mary Randle, Executive Director
630.859.1331 | mrandle@metrowestcog.org



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to mrandle@metrowestcog.org by mrandle@metrowestcog.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Try it FREE today.

Metro West Council of Government | 43 W. Galena Boulevard | Aurora | IL | 60506