

# METRO WEST E-NEWS

December 2009

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The Metro West Council of Government newsletter will keep you informed on issues that affect municipalities in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. We'll also include information on Metro West programs, events and services. We welcome your input about articles for the newsletter.

### 2009-2010 Executive Committee

**President:** Valerie Burd, Mayor of the United City of Yorkville

**Vice-President:** Tom Weisner, Mayor of Aurora

**Secretary:** Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager of Montgomery

**Treasurer:** Brian Townsend, Administrator, City of St. Charles

#### Immediate Past President

Donald DeWitte,  
Mayor of St. Charles

**DeKalb County Municipal Representative:** Kris Povlsen, Mayor, City of DeKalb

**Kane County Municipal Representative:** Frank Koehler, Administrator, Village of East Dundee

**Kendall County Municipal Representative:** Marilyn Michelini, President, Village of Montgomery

#### Past Presidents:

#### Ex-Officio

Stephen Pickett, President  
Village of Sleepy Hollow

Edward Schock, Mayor,  
City of Elgin

### Metro West Recognition Awards

Mayor DeWitte presented the Metro West Star Award to Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner in recognition of his extraordinary contributions as chairman of the Metro West Water Conservation Task Force and for developing the Joint COGs Water Supply Planning Alliance. Ray Keller, Administrator of the Village of Gilberts, will receive a Star Award at the next Board meeting for his outstanding contributions to the Transportation Task Force and the Legislative and Strategic Plan Committees.

Mayor DeWitte presented award plaques to retiring Executive Committee members Sean Michels, President of Sugar Grove; Gary Adams, Administrator of Oswego; and to Mark Biernacki, City Manager of DeKalb. They had each served for two years as County Municipal Representatives for Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, respectively.

President Burd thanked Mayor DeWitte for an outstanding job as Metro West President. We had a very successful year under his leadership. Three new members were added and we made great progress with issues such as water conservation. We had a successful Drive Down event with record attendance. We also offered a number of seminars and working groups to address current issues and challenges.

### 2009 Board Meetings & Events

Tuesday, January 26 - 7:30 am  
Legislative Breakfast

Thursday, January 28 - 6:30 pm  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

Thursday, February 25 - 6:30 pm  
Metro Metro West COG Board Meeting

### Mayors Caucus Quarterly Meeting December 14

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus will hold its next quarterly meeting from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14. An update on the Service Delivery Task Force will be the main focus. The meeting will be held at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S. Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. To RSVP, call 312.201.4505.

### No Movement on SB 2011 Pension Amortization Bill

Despite intense negotiations on behalf of municipalities by area COGS and the IML, the pension amortization bill was stalled during the veto session. As many of you know, municipal contributions to public safety pensions will skyrocket this year. This bill would have provided some relief to municipalities without compromising the pension benefits by lengthening the amortization period, as one would by extending the length of a home mortgage.

Public safety pension reform will continue to be a critical issue for municipalities. Without reform, the pension costs will continue to spiral. We will continue the fight in the upcoming legislative session. We will need your help to keep this urgent need at the forefront with our legislators.

To read an excellent article on the looming pension funding crisis by the Northwest Municipal Conference, which has provided excellent leadership on this issue [click here](#):

### No Metro West Board and Committee Meetings in December

In consideration of the holidays, there will not be any regularly scheduled board, task force and committee meetings in December. The officers and staff members of Metro West wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

March 16 - 17  
Springfield Legislative Drive Down

Thursday, March 25 - 6:30 p.m.  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

Thursday, April 22 - 6:30 pm  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

May TBA - 11:30 am  
State of the Counties Luncheon

Thursday, May 27 - 6:30 pm  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

Thursday, June 17 - 6:00 pm  
Legislative Barbecue/Session Review

Thursday, September 16 - 6:30 PM  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept 22 - Friday, Sept 23  
IL Conference

Thursday, October 28 - 6:30 PM  
Metro West COG Board Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 18 - 6:30 PM  
Metro West COG Board Meeting

### Mayors in the News

Oswego

#### Mayor LeClercq Featured in Sierra Club Publication

The Sierra Club newsletter featured Oswego Mayor Brian LeClercq in the Fourth Quarter 2009 issue, which highlighted the Mayor's achievements in recycling and environmental conservation. The article, which features a picture of Mayor LeClercq kayaking on the Fox River, commends the Mayor for strongly encouraging environmental awareness in Oswego and Kendall County, and emphasizes Oswego's signing of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. This agreement is supported by mayors pledging to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by seven percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012. Mayor LeClercq has taken swift action to institute energy efficient measures by promoting and encouraging renewable energy requests, and also by making sure that "going green" will be the norm for the Village of Oswego. His leadership and commitment ranged from awarding local businesses with a Green Business award to going paperless at Village Board meetings.

For more information about Oswego's green initiatives, visit [Oswego's website](#). To learn more about the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, click on this link: [Climate protection agreement](#)

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

METRO WEST LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST  
Tuesday, January 26, 2010  
7:30 a.m. at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva

### Sustainable Energy Planning Workshop December 10

The State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and ComEd are sponsoring an important energy initiative - - The Working Green: 3-Step Sustainable Energy Planning (SEP) Workshop Program - - to help municipalities and other public sector organizations, school districts, manufacturers, and commercial enterprises sharply reduce their energy bills.

Sustainable Energy Planning workshop  
December 10  
South Suburban College  
16333 S. Kilbourn  
Oak Forest  
8:30 am to 3:30 pm

The SEP workshop is designed to empower organizations to craft a Sustainable Energy Plan and achieve immediate and sustained energy cost reductions. After the workshop, our energy experts will provide free consulting/coaching support to complete the SEP, conduct energy surveys, or target other actions identified in the sustainable energy planning process.

For more information or to register, click [Sustainable Energy Workshop](#).

Please forward this newsletter to other elected officials and staff members to keep them updated on issues affecting municipalities.

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