



# IVI-IPO Action Bulletin

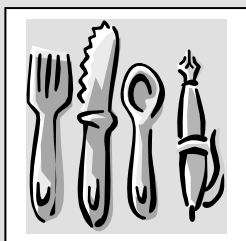
Spring 2005

**Reminders:**

- **Independents' Day Dinner July 30**
- **Board Nominations due June 23**

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*Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (312) 939-5105*

## IVI-IPO 61<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary Independents' Day Dinner

Our 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Independents' Day Dinner will be held:  
 Saturday, July 30, 2005,  
 Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago  
 Reception from 5:30 pm and Dinner from 6:00 pm

This year's IDD will include a sit-down dinner. Watch for your invitation listing speakers and additional details near the end of June.

The 2005 awardees are:

- **Legal Eagle Award:** Dean Strang and T. Christopher Kelly (for work on Booker v. United States, which struck down mandatory sentencing in federal cases)
- **Leon Despres Award:** State Senator Carol Ronen, State Representative Larry McKeon, and former State Representative Susan Catania (for years of work on the Gay Rights Bill - adding sexual orientation as a protected class under the Illinois Human Rights Act)
- **Barbara Merrill-Rudy Lozano Labor Award:** Mary Crayton, Assistant Director of the Field Mobilization Department of the national AFL-CIO
- **Harold Washington Award:** Bill McNary, Co-President Illinois Citizen Action, Vice President U.S. Action
- **Kit Pfau Award:** Midwest Center for Democracy
- **Saul Mendelson Award:** Emma Lozano

## IVI-IPO Conducts Cook County Board Forum

*by Connie Hall and Lee Snyder*

On March 23, the IVI-IPO held a forum on the Cook County Board that featured the participation of 5 county commissioners. Much of the discussion centered on the independence of the commissioners, current budgetary woes, commissioners' relations with Cook County Board President Stroger, and county hospital. Attending the meeting were commissioners Jerry Butler, Bobbie Steele, Tony Peraica, Forrest Claypool, and Larry Suffredin; and over 60 people were in the audience, including IVI-IPO members. The forum was wide-ranging and many topics were discussed. The following is an excerpt of the forum.

Butler asserted that he was somebody nobody sent, and that an army without soldiers has a general who will lose the war. He went in with two priorities: single member districts and a new county hospital. Steele added, "Nobody sold me or bought me." Suffredin referred to his experience as Dem township committeeman after Woods Bowman (and acknowledged Bowman who was in the audience as he spoke). Claypool cracked a joke about being referred to as Forrest Gump's brother, and then thanked the IVI-IPO for its support in helping him beat Ted Lechowicz for his county seat. He cited his experience with Pat Quinn, city government, and the city's parks as having given him a chance to manage at several levels. Peraica started as a Democrat, working for Alderman Huels and Mayor Jane Byrne, and became a Republican in 1994 due to his belief in small government and individual responsibility—governments tend to become too large.

*[continued on page 2]*

## From the State Chair

by C. Betty Magness, State Chair

One of our proudest moments in the last year is the substantial number of endorsed candidates elected in November! The fine candidates elected at the local level was very encouraging! And let's not forget Barack Obama!—it's so nice that the other forty-nine states have caught up with Illinois in terms of recognizing him and his exemplary record and ideas! IVI-IPO congratulated and highlighted him years ago by honoring him at an IDD dinner for his accomplishments in registering huge numbers of voters.

In the last year we have also started sponsoring membership meetings, and I hope to see them held quarterly as the membership indicated that they want more. We held our first membership meeting (of 2004) in December at the Chicago Temple and as a result we held a Cook County Board issues forum (see related article on page one). Herb Ziegeldorf did a yeoman's job organizing this forum! In the very near future we expect to sponsor an issues forum on the Chicago Transit Authority and its budgetary and service problems. Charles Paidock is working very hard to pull off this CTA forum.

We also recently conducted a Women's Caucus luncheon where we discussed the political glass ceiling in Illinois. The audience enjoyed hearing from State Rep. Julie Hamos, State Senator Iris Martinez, and Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown. Mary Laney of Chicago Sun-Times was a fantastic moderator, and hats off to Aviva Patt for coordinating the whole event! We were delighted to see Rikki Jones, President of Cook County Democratic Women; Alice Palmer, former state senator; State Rep Lou Jones; Carolyn Rush; Delores Mebain; and congressional candidate Chris Cegelis. The Union League Club outdid themselves—the venue and food were wonderful. Yea!! Thanks to Karen Boehning for procuring the club. We're hoping the Women's Caucus brunch will be an annual event.

We plan to conduct a workshop later this year, perhaps in September, on how to gain access to the ballot. One interesting development this year is the growing number of requests from other organizations in Illinois asking us to do workshops for them.

Another goal of mine is to increase the numbers of young people as part of both our membership and on our board of directors. We have brought in some new blood, but we need more! People can call our general number 312-939-5105 to join! Want to know how to get on our board? See the article on page three of this newsletter!

### Action Bulletin

Is published by the  
Independent Voters of  
Illinois—Independent  
Precinct Organization

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#### **County Board** [continued from page 1]

Suffredin explained that if Cook County were a state, it would be the eighteenth largest state in the union. Peraica cited the various sizes of the state, county and city budgets and claimed that we must reduce staffing and must bring sanity to large bloated government. Much of the talk focused on the county board budget.

Herb Ziegeldorf, chair of IVI-IPO's Community Action and Municipal Affairs Committee, and organizer of the forum, asked about the \$73 million hole in the county budget and would there be additional taxes coming and will there be safeguards put in place? Suffredin responded that we had enjoyed surpluses until recently, and that for the last 10 years revenues had been underestimated, and that the taxpayers had had new taxes dumped on them. He is calling for truth in budgeting and truth in taxation.

Claypool opined that we should maneuver ourselves "budgetarily," health care has to be a focus; that the new budget should serve to help move us in a new direction. Peraica is calling for new communication between government and legislative branches, and cited the need for financial savings. Steele added that the 2005 budget passed with no increase in taxes, and Butler was unapologetic about proposing tax increases under these conditions, noting that Chicago and the state propose their budgets "before the county does theirs, and so what is left? Property taxes, which no one wants to touch, but we have to."

[continued on page 4]

**IVI-IPO OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM  
FOR CANDIDATES TO THE STATE BOARD**

IVI-IPO is recruiting candidates for election to the State Board of Directors. Directors are elected by mail ballot in July and will serve one-year terms beginning July 27, 2005. The Board of Directors meets 12 times each year (sometimes more often for endorsements) and members are required to attend at least half of the meetings, as well as to work on fundraising projects and administrative or issues projects throughout the year.

Candidates may submit a biography/platform statement to be included with the ballots. Maximum statement length is noted below for each office but brevity is encouraged. No editing will be done. Statements exceeding their maximums will be cut at the appropriate point.

Any member in good standing may nominate another member (or her/himself) for any of the following offices:

**STATE CHAIR (500 words)**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR (300)**  
**PROGRAM VICE CHAIR (300)**  
**SECRETARY (200)**  
**TREASURER (200)**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (300)**  
**POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR (300)**  
**LEGISLATIVE ACTION CHAIR (300)**  
**COMMUNITY ACTION CHAIR (300)**  
**NATIONAL AFFAIRS CHAIR (300)**

or for one of three **AT-LARGE DELEGATE seats (200 words)**. According to the IVI-IPO Constitution, "The express goal is that an attempt shall be made to enable representation of otherwise unrepresented constituencies."

In addition to these positions elected by the entire membership, each chapter elects representatives to the Board and Political Action Committee. If you wish to run for a chapter position, please contact your Chapter Chair or the office.

Candidates may not run for more than one position on the Board.

Ballots will be mailed July 1 and must be returned to the IVI-IPO office by **5 pm, Friday, July 22.**

**Nominations, including biographies and/or statements, must be received by 5 pm, Thursday, June 23.** Preferred method of submission is by email to [office@iviipo.org](mailto:office@iviipo.org) or as a Word document or text on IBM compatible diskette or CD (please also include a hard copy).

You may also submit typewritten copy by mail or fax, but ***handwritten statements will not be included.***

Thank you for your participation and good luck!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE FOR \_\_\_\_\_

Return to IVI-IPO, 1325 S Wabash, #105, Chicago IL 60605

312-939-5105 FAX: 312-939-3315

**IVI-IPO Welcomes New & Returning Members**

Marnie E Banks	Arthur Frank	Amy A LeVitus	Candido Santiago, Jr.
Ronald Banks	Richard R Gordon	Kurt J LeVitus	Moe Shanfield
S Bradley	Roger Harper	Marc Loveless	Michael Simon
Christine Cegelis	David Ireland	Robert H Madison	George P. Tserotas
Cheung Curtis	Joenne Jennings	Ina Marks	Victoria Velez
Mary Kay Dawson	Rikki D Jones	Dennis Marlow	Kimberly Walz
Denise Dixon	Mark Joyce	Clark Maxfield	Zeophus Williams
Robert Dixon	Anne King	Derek McNeal	Fred Yankowski
Michael Dunmars	John King	David Newcorn	

***Not a member yet? Just fill-out and mail-in the form on the opposite page. ⇨***

**County Board** *[continued from page 2]*

Peraica cited the large percentage of the county budget being labor expenses (80%?), and therefore savings could be garnered by reductions in staffing. Steele stated that our pension plan system is in good shape and Suffredin agreed that the pension system is fine, both "county board-wise and forest preserve-wise," and that things now being discussed at the county board meetings are being done in public, things that used to be done in private.

Peraica noted that county personnel are being sued for sexual harassment by subordinates in various departments (such as the sheriff's office), and the county often gets stuck with the legal bill for both sides. Steele expressed her appreciation that we can do something about protecting females now (as opposed to the past) from sexual harassment.

Peraica pointed out that pension expenses rise when raises are pushed through right before those employees take early retirement. Steele reminded everyone that there are pension boards that oversee retirement funds, and are not under direct control of the county board.

Butler commented that many African Americans are the last hired, and they will be the first out. Steele noted that we'll need a magician to effectively deal with the county deficit, or lay off people. It should not be us versus them. She added, "I like fat in the budget—sometimes fat makes things taste good."

**Welcome IVI-IPO's New Administrative Assistant**

Casey Otto is the new face in the IVI-IPO office—the new voice answering the phone. He has been immersed in Chicago politics his entire life. Raised in Evanston, he began volunteering for various campaigns as a teenager in 1999. He went on to work as a field intern for the campaign of junior senator from Illinois, Barack Obama last summer. Since then, he has moved his way up to work as the field coordinator for the Kerry/Edwards presidential campaign in Michigan's 9th Congressional District in October 2004. Casey's track record shows he's been hooked on politics and shows no signs of stopping his path of public service. In the fall, he plans to finish an undergraduate degree in government at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Casey will be working on the IVI-IPO website in addition to his other duties. So give the IVI-IPO office a call at 312-939-5105 to say hello and offer to volunteer. There should be someone in the office Monday through Friday through the end of July—***and there will be plenty to do!***

## Dues Increase effective July 1, 2005

- Single Dues will increase from \$30 to \$35
- Joint Dues will increase from \$40 to \$50
- Share the cost dues will increase from \$81.58 to \$88.36

*So join or renew now before the increases go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>!*

## Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization

1325 S. Wabash, Suite 105, Chicago, IL 60605 312-939-5105 Fax: 312-939-3315

Visit our website at [www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org).

*YES! I want to join Illinois' oldest multi-issue progressive good government organization.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Single                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Contributor (single or joint)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Joint                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor (single or joint)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$81.58 Share the Cost<br>(single or joint) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Life Member (single or joint) |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 Limited Income (single)         |

Please make checks payable to **IVI-IPO**. You may also charge your membership to your Visa or Master Card. Contributions to IVI-IPO are not tax-deductible.

Name as it appears on your card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check the following boxes to receive meeting notices to the following committees.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Action (state)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Website Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Affairs                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Action (local/city council) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay and Lesbian Caucus                | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteer             |

**REMINDER:** Make sure the IVI-IPO office has your current e-mail, so that in between mailings and newsletters, you can receive regular legislative updates, alerts and organizational news. E-mail the office at [office@iviipo.org](mailto:office@iviipo.org) and let them know what kind of notices you would like to receive and the e-mail address you would like them to use.

## IVI-IPO

Independent Voters of  
Illinois-Independent  
Precinct Organization

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info@iviipo.org

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IVI-IPO is on the Web!

See us at:

**[www.iviipo.org](http://www.iviipo.org)**

## Calendar

5/11	6:00 pm	Steering Committee
5/11	7:00 pm	Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee
5/23	6:15 pm	IDD Committee
5/23	7:00 pm	National Affairs Committee (note: rescheduled date)
5/25	5:30 pm	Steering Committee
5/25	6:30 pm	IVI-IPO Board Meeting
6/08	6:00 pm	Steering Committee [second Wednesdays]
6/08	7:00 pm	Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee [second Wednesdays]
June	TBA	Legislative Action Committee [future dates: TBA]
6/20	7:00 pm	National Affairs Committee [third Mondays]
6/22	5:30 pm	Steering Committee [fourth Wednesdays]
6/22	6:30 pm	IVI-IPO Board Meeting [fourth Wednesdays]
6/27	6:15 pm	IDD Committee
7/30	5:30 pm	Independents' Day Dinner

IVI-IPO Mission: Achieving social justice by electing good government

***Save the date: July 30th***

Look for your invitation to IVI-IPO's 61<sup>st</sup> Independents' Day Dinner  
in your mailbox later this June!

Independent Voters of Illinois-  
Independent Precinct Organization  
1325 South Wabash - Suite 105  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED