



ILCMA Winter Conference 2022 Speaker Bios

Joe Barnes

Joe Barnes is the Chief Digital Risk Officer (CDRO) for the University of Illinois System. As CDRO, Joe is responsible for establishing and maintaining the University of Illinois System's digital risk management program. Digital Risk is comprised of the challenges related to continuous change and increasing complexity in the U of I System's operations, technology, and threat environments as they relate to cybersecurity, privacy, compliance, business continuity, and risk management. Joe has more than twenty years of experience in information technology, in both the public and private sectors; for the past fifteen years, his work has focused on privacy, information security, and risk. He is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Patrick T. Brankin

Patrick T. Brankin practices in the areas of land use, zoning, municipal law, civil litigation, developer incentives, government relations, and liquor and business licensing.

As a litigator, he has represented plaintiffs and defendants in matters involving contracts, land use, foreclosure, landlord/tenant relations and torts. Mr. Brankin has appeared before numerous boards and commissions of municipalities, counties and the State of Illinois.

He is the Village Attorney for several of the firm's municipal clients. As part of that role, he has successfully prosecuted hundreds of cases dealing with a broad range of land use, zoning and municipal code enforcement and other issues involving municipal law.

Mr. Brankin co-authored Chapter Nine of the 2004 Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education Land Use Law handbook entitled "Litigation of a Zoning Case," and frequently gives presentations on land use, zoning and legal issues impacting municipalities.

Mr. Brankin is an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law where he teaches classes involving land use and zoning law.

Andrew Brown

Andrew Brown recently was named the new Village Treasurer/Finance Director following the retirement of longtime director Brad Bettenhausen on June 30.

Andrew started with the Village in 2020 as the Assistant Treasurer/Assistant Finance Director, bringing 14 years of government finance experience with him to the role. His drive is continuing to help make the

Village of Tinley Park the best community for its residents and businesses.

Andrew has a Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University in business administration with a concentration in accounting and a minor in economics, and a Master's Degree from Elmhurst College in accountancy. He is an active participant in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), and Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association (IMTA), serving those organizations in multiple roles, and is a former member of the Northern Illinois University Master's in Public Administration Advisory Board (2019-21).

Brad Burke

Brad Burke is the Village Manager for Lincolnshire, Illinois; serving in this position since August 2012. He has more than 28 years' experience in local government. Prior to working in Lincolnshire, Brad served in previous positions as Village Manager – Kenilworth, IL; Assistant Village Administrator – Lake Bluff, IL; Assistant Village Administrator – Gurnee, IL. Brad has a Masters of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor' Degree in Public Administration from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. He is an active member of ICMA, ILCMA, and the Metropolitan Managers association.

C. Kelly Cofer

C. Kelly Cofer is the founder and CEO of The Retail Coach, the nation's premier retail recruitment, market analysis, and development firm. Since 2000, he has continued to blend his expertise in retail real estate and corporate retail site selection with his knowledge of economic and community development to assist more than 650 communities across the U.S. in reaching their full retail potential. As a recognized expert in finance, market research and analysis, urban and suburban retail, property development and redevelopment, Kelly's 35+ years of experience in the retail real estate industry are unmatched. The Retail Coach was born from Kelly's determination to see communities succeed and to give city leaders the knowledge and ability to recruit retail. Kelly graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He also attended the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and earned the prestigious Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation from the Chicagobased Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute.

Scott Coker

Scott Coker joined the City of Macomb as the Public Works Director in 2017 and became the City Administrator in 2019. Previously, he was the Director of Facilities for Western Illinois University in Macomb. Scott has daughters Sydney, Hayley and Macy and wife Barb.

John DuRocher

John DuRocher has been the Village Administrator for the Village of Indian Head Park for the last six+ years. Before that he was the Executive Director for the Northwest Water Commission (13 years), two years at the City of Wilmington, and 11 years with the Village of Montgomery as the first professional manager in those two communities. He is a 1989 graduate of the illustrious NIU MPA program. John serves on the ILCMA Member Services Committee and is a member of ICMA's Veterans Advisory Committee.

Margo Ely

Margo Ely has been the Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency for almost 6 years, where she oversees a \$40+ million annual budget and operates a full-service risk pool that provides risk management advice, training and claims administration for 72 municipalities in Northeastern Illinois. Prior to joining IRMA, Ms. Ely practiced municipal law for 20 years, with the last 10 years at the City of Naperville where she was the Director of Legal, Human Resources and Risk Management and provided advice related to workforce issues related to labor negotiations with 13 unions as well as self-insured liability and workers compensation.

Arica Finney

With 12 years of professional experience in construction and architecture, Arica is a passionate, servant leader that heads municipal Client Services for CORE Construction in Chicagoland. Exposed to construction at a young age, with her father being a union carpenter, Arica values strong design that supports the function of its users, while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the community. She has been an active member of ILCMA since 2016 and is a proud graduate of Second City Improv.

Dr. Trent Ford

Dr. Trent Ford has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 2019. He and his team provide information online, through traditional and social media, and by speaking to interested groups across the state. In addition to his role in education and climate outreach, Ford also conducts research on the climate system and extreme climate events, like drought and heat waves; monitors current conditions; and studies climate change.

A native of Roanoke, Illinois, Ford earned a bachelors in geography from Illinois State University before completing his masters and PhD at Texas A&M University. Before joining the Illinois State Water Survey, Ford was an assistant professor in the Department of Geography & Environmental Resources at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Mark Franz

Mark Franz is currently the Village Manager for the Village of Glen Ellyn, IL. He has 25 years of municipal experience and was the 2015 ILCMA President. Previously, he was the Village Manager in Homewood for eight years and has worked for the City of Evanston and the Village of Northbrook earlier in his career. He is a graduate of Indiana University, and received a MPA from Northern Illinois University. He is currently the Chair of the ILCMA Committee on Professional Conduct.

Jeffrey A. Fritz

Jeffrey is Principal and Chief Executive Officer of The PREVENT Group, LLC which is a law enforcement and public safety consulting and training firm that specializes in serving the needs of small and medium-sized police agencies. Prior to establishing his consulting firm, Jeff spent over 40 years in public service having served in law enforcement, municipal, and state agencies and organizations.

Jeff is a 32-year veteran of law enforcement with his last two years as a Police Chief. He began his law enforcement career in 1976 as a Community Service Officer with the Elk Grove Village, IL Police Department, then served 28½ years with the Bloomingdale, IL Police Department retiring at the rank of Watch Commander, and completed his career as the Chief of Police for the City of Canton, IL Police Department.

After his law enforcement career, Jeff joined the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute at Western Illinois University as a Program Manager in 2008 and retired as the Deputy Director in 2016. Upon his retirement, he continued working with the Executive Institute serving in part-time capacities for the next couple of years.

In April 2019, Jeff was elected to serve on the Canton City Council for a second time as Alderman for Ward 2. He previously served six years on the City Council, first as Alderman from 2011 - 2013, and then as the City's Mayor from 2013 - 2017. He also serves as a Trustee on the Bloomingdale Police Pension Board, holding the office of President since 1998.

Matt Fritz

Matt Fritz has been the longest tenured Village Administrator of Coal City since his appointment two mayors ago in January of 2008. Prior to that appointment, Mr. Fritz served as the Assistant Town Manager in Munster, Indiana for 6 years following his initial assignment in local public management as the Administrative Intern in Skokie. Matt earned an MPA from NIU after earning undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Economics which pale in comparison to meeting his life partner while attending North Central College. Together, the two have created a home for 6 in Coal City, which includes three boys and one girl.

Susan Garvey

Susan Garvey is the Director of Legal Services for the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) a joint risk pool of municipalities located in Westmont, Illinois. She has held that position since it was created in December 2000. Susan received her juris doctorate degree from the John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. She is licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Immediately prior to joining IRMA, she was in private practice with a municipal law firm and while in private practice provided legal services to IRMA.

Susan is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Defense Research Institute participating in the Insurance Law Committee, Governmental Liability Committee and Corporate Counsel Committee.

Alonzo Kelly

A dynamic Executive Coach, Professor, 3x Best Selling Author, and Radio Host, Alonzo Kelly has gained international and global attention as a premier consultant and strategist. Alonzo is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on leadership development, strategic thinking, planning, and acting which results in individual and organizational goal achievement. He has appeared on America's Premier

Experts which airs on major networks across the country including ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX. Alonzo has served over 1,000 individuals through personal and professional development, delivered training to a plethora of Fortune 500 Companies, College and Universities, Foreign Countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Guam), nonprofit organizations, and is consistently retained to be the keynote speaker at large and small events across the country.

He holds a bachelor's in Accounting, three master's degrees (Public Administration, Human Resource & Labor Relations, Business Administration), and is nearing completion of a PhD in Multidisciplinary Human Services. He is also currently in the process of obtaining his Doctorate in Business Administration.

He currently serves as the National Board Representative for the Wisconsin State Board of Directors for the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), President of the National Board of Directors for SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted), the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Howard, and Board of Directors for Family Services of Brown County.

Nick Kittle

Nick is the author of the best-selling government innovation book "Sustainovation: Building Sustainable Innovation in Government, One Wildly Creative Idea at a Time," and spent 15 years in local government, most recently as a Chief Innovation Officer. He has won three national innovation awards and founded one of the first five government innovation offices in the country. During his government career, Nick directed 17 different divisions and developed over 65 unique or first-of-their-kind pilot projects while directly generating \$7.8 M in savings and pioneering the concept of Innovation Value. In 2019, Nick visited 50 different communities spreading a message of innovation and high-performance and in 2020 took that message to an international audience with sessions in Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand.

Nick has founded innovation offices in a variety of political climates and geographies across the US, and consulted with cities such as Kansas City, Austin, Scottsdale and San Jose on government innovation. He has written and spoken extensively as a government thought leader and motivator, including pieces for the Harvard Government Innovators Network, Alliance for Innovation, Exago, and Governing Magazine, as well as podcasts with StrongTowns, National Research Center and ELGL.

Nick now keynotes and trains across the country on building Sustainovation™ in government and visited 50 different communities in 2019 to help them transform their mindset. Nick is a dynamic TEDx speaker (Life 2.0), national keynote and government performance and innovation coach from Colorado, delivering a powerful message—and in his main time, he is a father, husband, photographer, BBQ champ and avid disc golfer.

Larry Kravetz

University of Illinois at Chicago, 1994
Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
Global Industrial Cyber Security Professional (GICSP)
25+ years in Information Technology
10 years in IT / OT at Concentric Integration

Larry spent most of his early career as a consultant as well as in corporate Information Technology and Cybersecurity. Larry joined Concentric in 2009 bringing with him advanced awareness of Cybersecurity and its impact on Government IT and its specialization for services such as Water and Wastewater, Police, Fire, Finance, and Public Works. Larry has helped to design many of the SCADA architectures for various water supplies in Illinois and is the firm's lead Cybersecurity architect and IT Director. As a degreed, multi-certified IT professional, Larry knows IT security and makes sure Concentric's client base sleeps better at night.

Mary Kelly

Mary specializes in leadership growth that helps organizations improve their profitability and productivity, especially in finance, insurance, real estate, and manufacturing. One of the first female graduates of the Naval Academy, Mary served 25 years on active duty, mostly in Asia, leading multi-cultural teams in nine countries. Her remarkable career of service included working as an intelligence officer, a chief of police, an HR director, and a chief of staff, as well as training more than 40,000 military personnel. Mary has been a leadership and economics professor at the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and Hawaii Pacific University. She has written 13 business books, including her best-seller, *Master Your World* (named a "must read" by MENSAs and MOAAs), and her latest award-winner, *Why Leaders Fail and the 7 Prescriptions for Success* (profiled in *Forbes* and *Success* magazines).

Today, Mary is a popular conference keynote speaker and leadership adviser working with businesses, associations, and government agencies. She offers programs that are content rich, highly entertaining, and strategically designed to help her clients get results.

Edith Makra

Edith has had the privilege of serving both the outside and inside of government to bring about enduring, positive public policy changes that improve the environment and quality of life. Understanding that meaningful change can come from the 'top-down', through elected leaders, or 'bottom-up' through citizen advocates, Edith has honed public policy and communication skills working in both directions.

To harmonize sustainability efforts of chief elected officials in the Chicago region, Edith led in the design and implementation of the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC), a powerful consensus sustainability plan tailored to maximize the impact of communities of all sizes and strengths. The GRC has now been formally adopted by 124 municipalities and 3 counties who now collaborate to advance renewable energy; use energy efficiently; adopt cleaner vehicle technologies; sustain robust urban forests and habitat; and engage residents in all aspects of community sustainability.

Grant programs Edith has designed and managed have invested nearly \$15,000,000 and leveraged local ingenuity to plant 17,000 trees; save 32 million kWh of electricity; and enhance public well-being.

Previously, Edith launched and built three vibrant and successful urban forestry programs - NeighborWoods for the non-profit Openlands; GreenStreets for the City of Chicago; and the Community Trees Programs for two arboreta. Combined, these programs have made lasting changes in how trees are valued and managed leading to enhanced quality of life in communities.

Heather McGuire

Heather holds a BA in Psychology from DePaul University in Chicago, and earned her JD from the Northern Illinois College of Law in DeKalb, Ill. She began her career as an attorney for a municipal law firm in Will County, working primarily in real estate, development and as general counsel for various local governments, non-profit organizations and a local community college district. After the firm closed, she became an on-staff City Attorney for the City of Crest Hill, where she oversaw litigation, negotiated and managed city contracts and familiarized herself with complex issues including employment and labor law, zoning, and economic development. That experience provided the necessary capabilities to shift into government administration, and Heather was promoted to Assistant City Administrator while still acting as the City's Chief Legal Officer, before being appointed as City Administrator in 2016.

Heather is currently the City Administrator for the City of St. Charles, where she oversees a full-service organization that includes police, fire, and electric and water utilities with approximately 275 employees and an annual budget of \$200,000,000.

Ben Mjolsness

Ben has over a decade of experience in the environmental field and a track record of successfully mitigating environmental problems (particularly waste/recycling, energy efficiency, air quality, policy) while reducing costs and improving clients' bottom lines. Ben is a strong communicator, and believes profitability and environmental improvement are not mutually exclusive.

Ben collaborates with regional partners and all Naperville stakeholders to work toward a sustainable, healthy, and resilient community for current and future generations.

Laura Newman

Laura Newman has been the City Administrator for Batavia since 2016. Her experience is mainly in the private sector first as a labor and employment attorney and then as a corporate executive. Having lived in Batavia for almost twenty years has provided her with a passion for serving this historic but dynamic Fox Valley community.

Jim Powers

Jim is a founding partner with the law firm of Clark Baird Smith LLP in Rosemont, Illinois. Jim concentrates his practice in labor and employment law by representing management in the defense of federal and state employment-related charges and lawsuits. He regularly counsels employers in various employment related leave matters, including the interplay between FMLA, ADA, workers compensation and Illinois public safety employee leave and benefits laws. His labor relations experience includes representing employers in proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board, Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board and Illinois Labor Relations Board. Prior to joining Clark Baird Smith LLP, Jim served as an associate and of counsel at Seyfarth Shaw LLP for approximately 12 years.

Jim earned his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1998 as valedictorian of his graduating class. Prior to law school, Jim worked as an Inspector with the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S.

Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General. Jim has written and lectured on a wide variety of legal topics pertaining to the labor and employment field. Jim is active with the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association and serves as the editor of the Association's monthly newsletter.

Pamela Reece

Pam Reece has been with the Town of Normal since starting her local government career in 1991. For over 30 years, she has served in Town Administration, being designated as Normal's third City Manager in April 2018.

In her role as City Manager, Pam is responsible for the daily operation of the organization, which has 17 operating departments and over 370 full-time employees. She is also tasked with implementing the Town's various strategic and financial plans, including the comprehensive plan, capital investment plan and annual strategic plan. Prior to being selected as City Manager, Pam served as Assistant City Manager and Deputy City Manager for 20 years.

Because of her role in Town Administration, Pam has been actively involved in various community development initiatives and strategies to make Normal an exceptional place to live, work and play.

A native of Traverse City, Michigan, Pam holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. Pam and her husband, Jay, are proud, long-time residents of the Town of Normal.

Rachel Rembrandt

Rachel is the Director of Customer Success at Zencity where she is responsible for leading the teams that manage the company's relationship with all of the 300+ local governments that Zencity works with. Prior to working at Zencity, Rachel worked as a customer success manager in tech at SimilarWeb, and prior to that she got her boots in the mud of local government as head of education programs for the City of Jerusalem's Southwest District. So Zencity is a great way of combining her expertise in customer success and her love of local government.

Rachel is passionate about cities, working with people and admittedly enjoys listening to jazz music and as many podcasts as possible. And even plays the saxophone!

Kathleen Rush

Kathleen F. Rush, prior to retirement had over 30 years active experience as a local government management professional including service in DeKalb, Woodridge, and Riverside, Illinois. 2009 until 2017, Ms. Rush served as the Village Administrator in Woodridge, a progressive, vibrant, diverse community in south central DuPage County. During her tenure in Woodridge, Ms. Rush was responsible for an approximate \$44.5 million budget and 126 full-time employees.

In Riverside, Illinois, Ms. Rush served as the Village Manager from 1998 to 2009. As a national historic landmark, Riverside is a unique, small town with a high demand for resident service and attention to historic preservation. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of Central Park, NY, the Village of

Riverside presented a unique set of challenges and projects. The community is known for its significant amount of open space, distinctive zoning, and curvilinear streets.

Prior to serving in the Manager's role in Riverside, Ms. Rush did serve as the Assistant Village Administrator in Woodridge. She also had the opportunity to work as the interim Director of Public Works during a recruitment vacancy and served as the project manager during the construction of a new Village Hall.

Ms. Rush holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a graduate degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Ms. Rush works as Vice President for GovHR USA providing support to local governments in Executive Recruitment, management studies and projects. She presently serves as the president of the Board of Directors for the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform.

Scott Shamberg

Scott Shamberg is Vice President of Azavar Government Solutions. Mr. Shamberg has been with Azavar Government Solutions for eleven years and has diligently worked his way up through the company. He has a background in municipal management with a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) and has worked for Elk Grove Village in the village manager's office and the City of Highland Park in economic development. Mr. Shamberg led the development of Azavar's sales tax review program and has spearheaded audits on natural gas, electric, cable, telecom, water and other revenue streams, returning millions of dollars to municipalities. Mr. Shamberg is a frequent presenter to various municipal organizations throughout Illinois on topics related to local government revenues.

Dr. Ashish Sharma

Dr. Ashish Sharma is the Illinois Research Climatologist and a graduate faculty in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from Arizona State University in 2012. He is a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and an executive committee member of the Center for Urban Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability (CURES) across the University of Illinois system. He has projects funded by the EPA, IBM, Walder Foundation, and NSF. He collaborates with cities and institutions on topics related to hydrometeorology and environmental justice issues.

Ashish Sharma

Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Affiliate, National Center for Supercomputing Applications

Mark Toalson

Mark Toalson has been in the IT field for more than 30 years including 18 years in public sector IT positions. With a degree in geography, Mark began his career in digital mapping, (soon to be called Geographic Information Systems), in the late 80's. Initially working for a private mapping firm, Mark started his own firm in 1996 providing digital mapping services for counties and municipalities. He operated his own firm, Map Research Technologies, until 2003 when he accepted a position in

Champaign County as the Manager of the Champaign County GIS Consortium. After directing the cadastral mapping of the entire county, Mark accepted a position in 2007 as Assistant IT Director for GIS at the City of Champaign. In 2012 Mark was promoted to his current position of IT Director at the City of Champaign.

James Turner

Since joining Guy Carpenter in 2011, James has taken on a broad range of client account-servicing responsibilities and continues to strengthen his capabilities in program design, marketing, and implementation. He focuses on the day-to-day implementation and servicing of treaty placements and development of new business production. He is responsible for marketing, reinsurance negotiations, and account activities associated with the reinsurance placement, including: managing the flow of data and underwriting questions, negotiating with the reinsurers, finalization of contract wording and signed lines. More recently, James has focused on the placements of cyber (re)insurance programs for our public entity clients.

Over the past 9 years, James has worked on Florida property cat placements, several regional property cat placements, eight of our public entity clients' placements and worked in the Risk & Compliance department as a Compliance Officer.

James earned his B.A. from Syracuse University and holds the Associate in Reinsurance (ARe) designation.

Robin Weaver

Robin Weaver has been a Senior Advisor for 8 years. She has more than 35 years of local government experience including post-retirement consulting services and international work in Jordan and Kosovo. Robin's career path includes time as a Member in Transition (MIT).

Robin serves on the ICMA International Committee and also served on the ICMA Task Force to Guide Veterans transitioning to Local Government. She is an ICMA Coach and an ILCMA mentor. She has served as President and on many committees of both ILCMA and IAMMA. Additionally, she is a Board Director and committee chair on the Legacy Project. Awards include IAMMA's Outstanding Mentor Award (first recipient), ILCMA's Lifetime Achievement Award and she is an ICMA Life Member. In 2020, Robin received the Outstanding Service to the Profession Award from NIU. Volunteer community activities have been broad but now center on environmental advocacy, settlement of immigrants, voter registration and Multiple Myeloma coaching.

Robin earned both her BA in Political Science and her MPA from Northern Illinois University. She teaches an Ethics course in the MPA program there.

Robin is passionate about excellence in local government and finds it fulfilling to provide assistance to members.