



ILCMA Winter Conference 2023 Speaker Bios

MAUREEN BARRY

Maureen Barry is a Senior Vice President with GovHR USA, specializing in helping public organizations to meet their management resources consulting needs. Widely recognized within her profession for her leadership, capabilities and commitment, she has nearly 30 years of combined experience working for local governments in the public and private sectors.

Prior to joining GovHR in 2020, Maureen spent nearly 13 years as a Municipal/Financial Advisor with the firms of Ehlers & Associates, Inc. and Stern Brothers & Co. assisting public organizations in the design and implementation of financial and economic development solutions and serving as a financial advisor to over 40 Illinois local government clients. Earlier in her career, Maureen worked directly for municipalities for 15 years, including the Village of Wilmette, the City of Evanston and the City of Glendale, AZ.

BRIGITTE BERGER-RAISH, P.E.

Brigitte is the Director of Engineering and Public Works for the Village of Wilmette, where she has served for 22 years. Brigitte received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in 1993. As Director of Engineering and Public Works, Brigitte manages the operation and maintenance of a full-service Public Works and Engineering Department consisting of 47 full-time employees in Streets, Water/Sewer, Fleet, Forestry, Facilities Management and Engineering Divisions. Brigitte oversees the implementation of annual department (2022, \$24M) and capital improvement budgets (2022, \$34M); plans, designs, and manages projects for all infrastructure improvements related to water, sewer, drainage, stormwater management, streets, traffic engineering, and related projects; and serves as the Staff Liaison to the Bike Master Plan Committee, Transportation Commission, and the Village Board's Municipal Services Committee.

Brigitte is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois, Past President of the American Public Works Association, Chicago Metro Chapter, and a member of the American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers and Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Brigitte was named one of the American Public Works Association Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year in 2021 and was voted American Public Works Association National Young Leader in 2001.

JULIA CEDILLO

Julia Cedillo has been Village Manager in La Grange Park since 2011. Prior to that, she served as the Village's Interim and Assistant Village Manager. Julia also worked for the Village of Woodridge, as the Management Analyst in the Administration Department. Julia began her career as an Intern for the City of DeKalb while completing her studies in the Master of Public Administration Program (MPA) at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Julia currently serves as the Chair of the IML Managers Committee, Past Chair of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), and member to ICMA's Governmental Affairs & Policy Committee and the ICMA Sustainability Committee. Previously, Julia served as a past President of the Metropolitan Managers Association Board, Chair of the NIU MPA Board of Advisors, and President of IAMMA. She is a member of the International City County Illinois City County Management Association (ILCMA) and the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC).

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. He worked at WIU for 14 years before coming to the City of Macomb. Scott has daughters Sydney, Hayley, and Macy and wife Barb.

CHRIS CONRAD

Christopher Conrad has served the City of Highland since 2000. Starting his career with the Highland Police Department as a patrol officer, he was promoted to Sergeant in 2009 and Lieutenant in 2014. In 2018 he was named Chief of Police. Chris earned a Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, KY. Chief Conrad began his role as Interim City Manager in November 2020. In May 2021, the position was made permanent. He brings to the office, his core values of integrity, respect, professionalism, and service. Chris' dedication to forward thinking is a perfect fit, considering Highland's long history of progressiveness.

ELLEN DEAN

Ms. Dean serves as Economic Development Director for the Village of Gurnee, a regional shopping and tourism destination located near the Wisconsin state line, halfway between Chicago and Milwaukee. Home to 1200 businesses including three major attractions – Six Flags Great America theme park & waterpark; Great Wolf Lodge waterpark & resort; and Gurnee Mills, the largest outlet shopping destination in Illinois – Gurnee welcomes millions

of visitors each year. These visitors put “heads in beds” in Gurnee’s 1700 hotel rooms and power \$1 billion in annual retail gross sales.

Prior to joining the Village of Gurnee, Ms. Dean served as Economic Development Manager for the Village of Glenview, with its 1300 businesses including headquarters facilities for Illinois Tool Works, Kraft, Astellas Pharma, Abt Electronics, Anixter, North American Corporation, Pearson Education, and Mead Johnson Nutrition.

Her local government career began at the Village of Downers Grove where Ms. Dean oversaw the development of a downtown revitalization plan; participated in the launch of a Downtown Management Corporation; held a seat on a newly formed Visitors Advisory Board, and served a 2,000 member business community including Midwestern University, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, FTD, and Sara Lee.

A firm believer that “Tourism is economic development!” Ms. Dean has been a municipal liaison to three different certified Convention & Visitors Bureaus and served on the Board of Directors for three different Chambers of Commerce.

Ms. Dean holds a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Michigan State University.

MARK ESSENFELD

Mark Essenfeld is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and an Accredited Investment Fiduciary® with a Bachelor’s Degree from DePaul University in Chicago, and a Master’s degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. In addition to his education and licensing, Mark has also been recognized as a Five Star Wealth Manager by Chicago Magazine, and by Cambridge Who’s Who® Among Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs. Aside from his practice, Mark is interested in American history, politics, and music, having played the Trumpet professionally; and he has endured being a Cubs fan his whole life. Mark lives in Oswego, Illinois with his wife Donna after having raised seven children. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Life’s Plan, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides Special Needs Trust access, charitable support encouraging self-sufficiency for those with special needs, and an affiliate of the Ray Graham Association.

AMANDA GORE

Amanda Gore is the CEO of The Joy Project and one of Australia's and America's most popular 'experience creating' speakers. She blends the principles of ancient wisdom with new research in modern science to wake people up to what really matters - in life and at work.

Involving the audience in an entertaining way that gets them all connected, she shares strategies, techniques and skills that allow people to adapt to change, transform their attitudes, eradicate fear, and improve relationships, communication, leadership, sales and

customer service. The most important thing in life is how you feel about yourself - because that affects every other aspect of your life - especially your performance. The ability to make others feel good about themselves is rarely taught, yet critical for success in any field. People are 80% emotional and 20% rational - they will never forget how you made them feel! Amanda teaches people how to operate at that feeling level!

Her latest venture is The Joy Project. Her mission is to create a global joy movement where people learn to rediscover their joy, using the principles in her book JOY IS AN INSIDE JOB.

PEGGY HALIK

Peggy has served as the Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of Woodridge, IL since 2003. She has over 30 years of municipal experience and is the current ILCMA President-Elect. Previously, she was with the City of Naperville for ten years in a number of operating departments and the City Manager's Office. She received both her BA and MPA from Northern Illinois University. For the past 20 years she has overseen Woodridge's IT division. Her team has successfully navigated through a data breach, coming out with lessons learned and improved security practices.

TERESA HALEY

Teresa Haley of Springfield, Illinois, received her bachelor's degree in Communication in 1992 and her master's degree in Public Administration in 1994 from the University. She is a longtime passionate civil rights activist, public policy advocate, professional trainer, and dynamic speaker.

With her motto of "Keep it Movin'" Haley devotes herself to serving God, family, and community. She is the founder of Haley & Associates, a training and consulting service. In 2015, she became the first female president of the Illinois NAACP State Conference and is serving her seventh consecutive term as president of the Springfield Branch NAACP.

She spearheaded the first-ever Springfield Branch NAACP Office and Education Center. She chairs the Economic Development Workgroup for the Illinois Department of Public Health Covid Taskforce and Springfield Airport Authority, which helps small black-owned businesses stay alive. During the pandemic, she wrote and the community received several grants to assist families most impacted by COVID-19. Teresa serves as a Senior Policy Advisor for Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions. She is working with Congressional Leaders to approve the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument. She serves on the governor's Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative Transition Committee and the Governor's Commission for Environmental Justice. In 2014, Teresa helped spearhead and develop the 10 Shared Principles which is designed to build trust between the police and the Black & Brown communities.

Among the numerous honors Haley has received is the first-ever NAACP Activist of the Year Image Award in 2020, the Community Service Award from the Frontier International Club in 2020. Teresa was the first black female to receive the Springfield's First Citizens Award in 2019.

In February 2022, Teresa received the Alumni Humanitarian Award from the University of Illinois for her outstanding involvement and dedication, significant contribution of leadership and service. In March 2022, Teresa received the Paul Harris Fellow Award - Community Service Award from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. In April 2022, Teresa received the SAM Advocate of the Year Award.

In May 2022, Teresa went to Sierra Leone, West Africa on a mission trip. While in Sierra Leone, she leads educational workshops and taught the choir three gospel songs.

JEFF HAMILTON

Jeff Hamilton has served the City of Champaign since 2002, and as the City's Communications Manager for the last seven years. In that role he serves as the chief consultant to all City departments for the development and implementation of effective communication strategies, practices, and platform management. He leads all aspects of media relations for the City and oversees content creation and distribution on the City's social media accounts, website, government access station, news releases, and newsletters. Prior to working for Champaign, Jeff worked 10 years in the private sector, including roles as a production manager for a regional advertising firm, promotions producer for broadcast TV, and community video production and training. Jeff holds a Master's Degree in Political Science with an Option in Public Administration and Public Policy from Eastern Illinois University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunicative Arts from Iowa State University.

DAVE HERRELL

Dave serves as the President and CEO of Visit Quad Cities. Visit Quad Cities is the region's official destination marketing and management organization (DMMO) and is charged with driving positive economic development opportunities through tourism. Herrell leads the vision, strategy, and day-to-day operations of the private non-profit, community-based organization. Under His leadership, Visit Quad Cities has produced record annual visitor expenditures of \$1.14B and has set an ambitious plan toward the future. A proven executive with more than twenty years of experience, Herrell has a background in destination and brand marketing, administration, operations, strategic planning, business development, fundraising, government relations, communications, and non-profit management.

Prior to Visit Quad Cities, Herrell led the City of Jacksonville's Office of Sports & Entertainment as their Sports & Entertainment Officer. He has held leadership positions with the Arizona Sports Foundation, the Nashville Sports Council and Music City Bowl, Inc. He was

involved with a \$292M NFL relocation (Tennessee Titans) and an NHL conditional expansion franchise bid (Nashville Predators).

Active in the community where he lives and industry, Herrell was recently recognized as one of the most influential leaders in the region by the Quad Cities Regional Business Journal. He currently serves on the John Deere Classic Board of Directors, Q2030 Regional Vision Board of Directors, Chairman, Illinois Council of Convention & Visitor Bureaus (ICCVB) Board of Directors, and the Iowa Tourism Industry Partners (iTIP) Board of Directors.

A native of St. Louis and a graduate of the University of Missouri, he earned a bachelor's degree in communication. He and his wife Connie and their two kids live in the Quad Cities and are proud Quad Citizens.

JERRY IRVINE

Jerry Irvine has been deeply involved with the IT industry since 1987. As a result of his early experience, he became an expert in network communications and protocols when others in the industry were just learning how to use their first computer. Armed with this expertise, Irvine entered the consulting world working for companies like Network General and Advantis, performing detailed network analysis, design and troubleshooting. Since then, Irvine has filled MIS and CIO positions at multiple facilities and has managed more than 100 technicians and thousands of devices. He has led multiple project teams, such as the largest Microsoft Directory migration project ever. In 2008, Irvine was selected to join the National Cyber Security Task Force, a joint operation between the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This task force is responsible for advising federal decision-makers on cyber security policy and sharing best practices related to this urgent and ongoing need. His expertise on cyber security has been featured in a number of national and industry publications, including The New York Times, WGN Radio and Wired magazine.

ALONZO KELLY

A dynamic Executive Coach, Professor, 3x Best Selling Author, and Radio Host, Dr. Alonzo Kelly has gained international and global attention as a premier consultant and strategist. He has appeared on America's Premier Experts which airs on major networks across the country including ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX.

He holds a bachelor's in Accounting, three master's degrees (Public Administration, Human Resource & Labor Relations, Business Administration), an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Business & Entrepreneurship, 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), the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Howard, and Board of Directors for Family Services of Brown County.

PHILIP KIRALY

With over 20 years of service to local governments in the Chicago region, Phil has served as Glencoe's Village Manager since 2013. Prior to his appointment in Glencoe, Phil served the Villages of Skokie, Deerfield and Northbrook in various capacities ranging from Administrative Intern to Assistant Village Manager. He has extensive experience in economic development, comprehensive and strategic planning, collective bargaining, project management and organizational development and has a deep commitment to impactful community engagement. Since 2015, Phil has been an ICMA Credentialed Manager and is currently serving as Vice President of the Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA). In 2021, Phil was presented with the Les Allen Service to the Community Award by ILCMA for his philanthropic work in support of JDRF.

Phil is a proud graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois as well as Northern Illinois University's nationally ranked Master of Public Administration program.

ALLISON MATSON

Allison Matson has been the Village Administrator for the Village of Wauconda since October 2020. Previously, she held roles with Flossmoor, Downers Grove, and Naperville. She holds an MPA from Northern Illinois University, an MBA in finance from Keller Graduate School of Management and a BA in urban planning from the University of Illinois. She lives in Wauconda with her husband Tracy and a hound/pitbull mix named Walley.

JENNIFER MCMAHON

Jennifer McMahon has been interested in local government since her first job at the Village of Flossmoor at age of 16. Her desire to serve in local government led to her earning a BA in Urban Studies from DePaul University and her Master's degree in Urban Planning & Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Jennifer's career has included positions as the Human Resources Assistant for the City of Elmhurst, the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Warrenville where she built the HR function from the ground up, and currently as Director of Human Resources for the City of St. Charles. Jennifer is Assistant Vice President for IPELRA. She has given back to the industry that has so enriched her life by serving on committees and various board positions for ILCMA, IAMMA, IPELRA and The Legacy Project. She also acts as a career mentor for DePaul University's Alumni Sharing Knowledge program. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenniferamcmahon/>

MATT MOFFITT, P.E.

Matt first found his passion for water resources growing up on the banks of the Mississippi in Nauvoo Illinois, that passion only grew as he attended UIUC. Matt has been with Baxter & Woodman for 9 years and now leads the water resources group; he also sits on the Board of Directors of Baxter & Woodman Natural Resources, and is the President of APWA Suburban Branch.

DARREN OLSON

Darren Olson is a Vice President and Assistant Department Head of the Water Resources Department at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd (CBBEL) where he has 22 years of experience in the field of water resources engineering. Darren has his BSCE and MSCE from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. Darren is also active in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and currently sits on the Committee for America's Infrastructure that recently released the 2021 ASCE Report Card for America's Infrastructure.

MELANIE SANTOSTEFANO

Melanie Santostefano is the President of Arlington Heights-based Vicarious Multimedia (VM), a communications firm providing public relations, crisis communications, marketing communications and video production services to local government organizations throughout Illinois. She has guided numerous local government leaders on how to tell the story of their organization through a multimedia approach. Services additionally include rebranding, messaging, and the critical communications to execute during a crisis. Before founding her company in 2004, Melanie worked in the news media as a reporter, writer, broadcaster and editor for outlets including Newstalk 1340 WSOY in Decatur, News Radio 780 WBBM and WLS 890 AM in Chicago, and AOL's Patch.com Arlington Heights and Palatine-based news publications.

DAN SEALS

Dan Seals is the Chief Executive Officer of Intersect Illinois, the public private partnership focused on business attraction for the state of Illinois. He oversees all aspects of the organization, including marketing, sales, financing, and personnel.

Dan has spent his career in both the public and private sector. He previously served as a Director at the American Medical Association, where he led both domestic and international marketing for a large portfolio of business services. He has also led business marketing for a division of GE Capital, where he helped achieve double digit growth in the specialized real estate sector. Prior to that Dan led a marketing team at T-Mobile, where he marketed telecommunications products nationwide.

Dan also served as the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, where he oversaw programs for business attraction, small business support, workforce development, tourism, and international trade. During that time, he led the development of the first Illinois Economic Development Plan in years. Dan has previously served as an adjunct professor of public policy at Northwestern University. He also won the Presidential Management Fellowship—serving as an aide to the Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of Commerce and as an economic aide in the U.S. Senate.

Dan holds an MBA from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago and a MIPP in International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. He was born and raised in Illinois where he resides with his wife and three daughters.

ADAM SIMON

Adam Simon is a partner with the law firm Ancel Glink and has practiced municipal law for 25 years. Adam emphasizes responsiveness and pragmatic solutions when counseling clients. Adam's practice focuses on a variety of areas, including public finance, zoning and economic development, real estate law, and telecommunications. He serves as general or special counsel to more than a dozen local governments and finds it especially rewarding to help them accomplish major capital projects that benefit the community.

TRISH STECKENRIDER

Trish Steckenrider is the Executive Director for the Greater Metropolis Convention & Visitors Bureau in Metropolis, IL. She is also the CFO, VP of Marketing, Social Media Manager, Guest Service Manager, Event Manager and anything else you can imagine as the GMCVB is an office of 1. Trish happily takes on all the roles as she has been destined to work in tourism her entire life.

Trish has held management roles within the world of tourism including theatres, a startup OTA catering to group business, the casino industry, and the hotel industry. This vast amount of experience has allowed her to lead Metropolis Tourism in a unique way as she has a working knowledge of each industry that plays a vital role within the tourism of her community.

Trish received her BFA from Missouri State University and her MS in Tourism and Hospitality Management from New York University. She also serves as an adjunct professor and member of the board for the Tourism, Hospitality & Events program at Southern Illinois University. When Trish isn't taking care of all things tourism in Metropolis, she is a dance instructor and competitive dance team coach. She stays very busy with her husband Stephen, and 4 children Akyra, Logan, Kaden, and Ella.

CASSY TAYLOR

Cassy Taylor began her service to McLean County in 2016. She has worked in several roles within county government since 1999 including the position of Director of Court Services for 2 Illinois counties. Cassy joined the McLean County Administrator's team in 2019 as the Assistant County Administrator and was promoted to County Administrator in June 2021.