

ORGANIZING EVENTS THAT FEATURE NEWSMAKERS AND ISSUES
IMPORTANT TO BUSINESSES

- Attendance was more than 30 percent higher than the previous year at both the annual Healthcare Conference, which reported on the new federal healthcare law, and the Workers' Compensation Conference, which previewed the Chamber's workers' compensation advocacy campaign. A successful first-ever Central Illinois Employers' Healthcare Conference in Springfield portends a similar event in Peoria in 2011.
- The two candidates for governor – Gov. Patrick Quinn and Republican Sen. Bill Brady – both delivered speeches at the Chamber's 2010 Annual Meeting that focused on job growth and attracting new business to the state. The keynote address by James Tet-reault of Ford Motor Company discussed the resurgence of Ford and expanded production in Chicago.

NETWORKING WITH LOCAL CHAMBERS

- A record number of local Chamber executives and board members participated in the Legislative Summit conducted by the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and the Illinois Chamber in Springfield in January. Building partnerships and strengthening local Chambers' engagement remains key to winning public policy outreach.

STRENGTHENING TIES WITH THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

- The Illinois Chamber and 15 local Chambers connected about 100 Central Illinois businesses to the Illinois National Guard during the "Doing Business with the Guard" event in Springfield in October. More events are planned around the state in 2011.
- Executive Vice President and COO Michael Ayers, Chair of the Illinois Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), earned the National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award for his support of Guard soldiers and airmen, one of only 10 people across the country to receive the award. Illinois is the only state in which the chair of the ESGR is part of a business association.

RELENTLESS ADVOCATE

CONTINUING AND EXPANDING THE JOBS AGENDA

- The goal of the Chamber's Jobs Agenda is to make government more business friendly and responsive to the creation of jobs in Illinois. In 2010, the Chamber supported legislation that streamlined the state's regulatory and permitting process. The Chamber Councils and local Chambers helped define the Jobs Agenda by giving state leaders specific proposals to help make Illinois more attractive for job growth.

FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION

- The Chamber settled its workers' compensation litigation, allowing insurers and self-insured employers to save about \$27 million during the next 18 months in reduced Rate Adjustment Fund assessments. Employers will see improvements in the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (IWCC) operations, with \$30 million in settlement funds going to IWCC information technology upgrades. This six-year episode demonstrated the courage and perseverance that is often required of employers to secure justice and gain favorable results.



(Top photo): Mary Crego, Chairman of the Illinois Chamber Board of Directors, and Gov. Patrick Quinn talk at the Illinois Chamber's Annual Meeting.

(Bottom photo): Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman, right, meets with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Dennis McCarthy, after Oberhelman signed a statement of support for the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act in a meeting arranged by Illinois Chamber COO Michael Ayers and Chamber Board Member and Caterpillar Manager of State Government Affairs Thomas Walters.

Illinois Chamber
of Commerce

A Report to the
Illinois Chamber
Board of Directors
December 2010
www.ilchamber.org



Relentless advocate

Strong ally

The UNIFYING VOICE for Illinois Business

Legislative leader and expert

MANY ROLES, ONE MISSION

In 2010, the Illinois Chamber took on many vital roles to achieve its mission to aggressively advocate for the interests of business and promote prosperity and opportunity for Illinois residents:

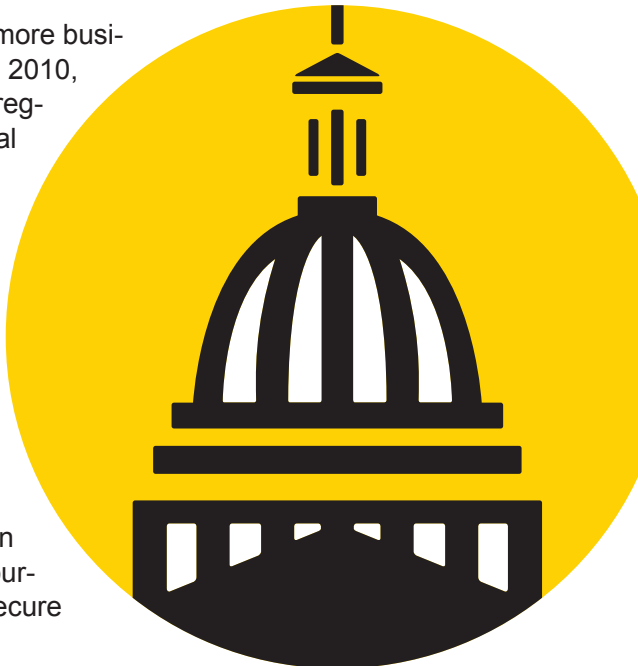
Legislative leader and expert: The Chamber's Tax Institute created business-friendly legislative proposals and led the charge to quash unreasonable taxes.

Strong ally: The Chamber fought Michigan's attempt to close the locks in the Chicago Area Waterway System in court, Congress and the media.

Networker, connector and educator: The Chamber's conferences and forums provided valuable learning and networking opportunities.

Relentless advocate: The settlement of the Illinois Chamber's six-year workers' compensation lawsuit will save millions for Illinois businesses.

Networker, connector and educator



LEGISLATIVE LEADER AND EXPERT

JOB ONE: JOBS – IMPROVING ILLINOIS' BUSINESS CLIMATE

- The Chamber organized a statewide coalition of 162 local Chambers of Commerce to push for modernization of Illinois' woefully outdated telecommunications laws. The new law will promote investment in the state and encourage job growth and innovation.



Illinois Chamber President and CEO Doug Whitley speaks at a news conference in June announcing the governor's approval of telecommunications reform, joined by, from left, Paul LaSchiazza, president of AT&T Illinois and Illinois Chamber Board member; Tom Villanova, president of the Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council; Gov. Patrick Quinn; and State Sen. Michael Bond.

- The Chamber spearheaded the effort to modify the state's 2009 procurement reform law, transforming a bureaucratic nightmare into a workable process that protects vendors' trade secrets while preserving the reform law's original intent of curbing abuses.
- The Chamber's Tax Institute aggressively and proactively promoted the interests of the business community by championing legislation that:
 - Simplified reporting requirements and cut red tape for companies participating in economic development programs.
 - Successfully achieved repeal of an onerous increase in Illinois replacement income tax on publicly traded partnerships.
- The Tax Institute fought a litany of provisions improperly classified by the Office of Management and Budget as "loophole closures," saving Illinois businesses about \$480 million in increased taxes.

THE SOURCE FOR BUSINESSES CONCERNED ABOUT HEALTHCARE REFORM

- The Chamber's Healthcare Council created the Health Reform Resource Center, a website that helps members learn how the new federal healthcare reform legislation affects them.
- The Chamber launched Live Healthy Illinois, which inspires businesses and their employees to embrace wellness through a team competition focused on weight loss or physical activity. The Chamber partnered with several Central Illinois Chambers and businesses in 2010 and will expand the program in 2011.



STRONG ALLY

PROVIDING VALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO PRO-JOBS, PRO-BUSINESS CANDIDATES

- Candidate contributions from the Chamber's Political Action Committee topped a record \$1 million in the 2010 election cycle. This year also marked the first time the Chamber contributed to candidates for federal offices thanks to the Chamber's partnership with the Business Industry Political Action Committee.
- The Chamber provided significant financial assistance to nearly 20 candidates running for Congressional and statewide offices who made job growth and economic development a priority. The Chamber's support helped unseat five incumbents in heated contests.

PROTECTING COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON WATERWAYS

- The Chamber, through its Infrastructure Council, became the primary advocacy voice to keep locks open for business in the Chicago Area Waterway System. When Michigan filed

(Top photo): In May, the Illinois Chamber endorsed Congressman Mark Kirk for the U.S. Senate race at a news conference at a Chicago business. Kirk won the election and took office in November.

(Bottom photo): Jim Farrell, executive director of the Infrastructure Council, left, meets with U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana after Farrell testified in February on behalf of Illinois businesses at a Senate subcommittee hearing about the Asian carp issue.

suit in federal court to close the locks and bring attention to the threat presented by Asian carp, the Chamber filed an affidavit to the Supreme Court, testified before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power, commissioned a study that showed the devastating economic impact of lost businesses and jobs the closure would cause and spoke for the business community in numerous local, regional, national and international print and broadcast outlets.

PLANES, TRAINS, ROADS ... AND JOBS

- The Illinois Chamber's Infrastructure Council advocated for increased funding for rail transportation – including continued investment in CREATE projects – in a white paper for Support of High Speed Rail in Illinois and in meetings with Illinois' Congressional delegation.

ADDRESSING BUSINESSES' ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- The Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group (IERG) successfully fought the adoption of unreasonably restrictive discharge rules in the Mississippi River basin that would have set standards below what was naturally occurring in the river. This helped more than 400 Illinois businesses.
- IERG worked with the Illinois EPA to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies in the agency's permitting programs that impede business growth, and will propose legislation enacting these changes in 2011.



(Top photo): Dr. Edward Hughes of Northwestern University delivers a keynote address at the Illinois Chamber's Healthcare Conference in Oak Brook in May.

(Bottom photo): Representatives from Siemens and Winergy Drive Systems receive the 2010 Edie Award from the Illinois Chamber at the Chamber's Annual Meeting in June. The companies were among six winners of the award, which recognized significant economic development projects finished in the last year.

NETWORKER, CONNECTOR AND EDUCATOR

PURSUING WAYS TO ENHANCE ILLINOIS' ENERGY PROFILE

- The Chamber's Energy Council convened two Energy Forums – in March (Springfield) and November (Chicago) – that brought together business, labor, environment, policy and other voices in the energy sector to address the challenges and opportunities associated with energy in Illinois. The Chicago event, which attracted 140 participants, featured former New Jersey Governor and former USEPA Director Christine Todd Whitman.
- With the funding from the Illinois Chamber Foundation, the Energy Council conducted two energy-related studies. One indicated that the industry supports 50,000 direct jobs, annually creates \$80 billion in direct economic output and creates high-paying jobs, and the other showcased the economic benefits of cleaner coal technology.

GIVING BUSINESSES VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT LAWS, REGULATIONS

- The Illinois Chamber helps employers comply with some of the toughest employment laws in the nation through publications and training seminars. The Chamber conducted seminars such as an HR Academy and an unemployment compensation insurance session and produced publications including a first-ever publications catalog and three new books.

HELPING EMPLOYERS REDUCE COST OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Community partners and stakeholders are working on ways to decrease substance abuse and its effect on businesses and employees by partnering with the Drug-Free Illinois Workplace Program on its new initiative – Building Illinois' Future Drug-Free Workforce. The goal is to prevent the onset of alcohol and drug abuse problems by targeting the present and future workforce.