

**MEETING SUMMARY
OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board (CAB) met in Springfield and connected by videoconference to Chicago. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss NPR Illinois' civic engagement and educational roles and programming or partnerships to help fulfill those roles.

Present in Chicago:	Bob Gallo, David Kohn, George Van Dusen
Present in Springfield:	Daisy Contreras, Sean Crawford, Kathleen Dunn, Randy Eccles, William Holland, Bethany Jaeger, Mario Jimenez, Megan Pressnall, David Racine, Kent Redfield, Blake Roderick, Dick Schuldt, Mia Woods
Present by phone:	Cindi Canary, Adam Porter, Chuck Scholz, Corrine Wood
Absent:	Deanie Brown, John Carpenter, Brad McMillan, Laurence Msall, Stephanie Rhodes, Karen Witter

Following is a summary of key points, decisions and next steps for the Community Advisory Board.

ENGAGING PAST ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

1. The Community Advisory Board decided that one way to honor and stay connected to past board members who honorably served is to create a new category of membership for “emeritus” members, as well as to honor those who honorably served as are now deceased.
 - a. The new category of emeritus membership is intended to be inclusive and support NPR Illinois’ development efforts by providing a specific avenue for engaging those who are already invested and motivated to support NPR Illinois’ efforts.
 - b. All past board members who honorably served and remain active supporters of NPR will be deemed emeritus members unless they opt out.

2. Emeritus members will be expected to:
 - a. Remain financial supporters of NPR Illinois;
 - b. Continue to serve as ambassadors for the organization by raising awareness of its content, programs and civic engagement activities and value to the statewide audience; and
 - c. Provide input to NPR Illinois and CAB regarding 1) NPR Illinois’ effectiveness and 2) opportunities for improvement, including partnerships or other activities to enhance mission effectiveness.

They will also be invited to:

- a. Attend CAB’s annual meeting in July;
- b. Attend all NPR Illinois events;

- c. Volunteer, including during pledge drives;
- d. Serve as business sponsors or other type of sponsor;
- e. Customize a [planned gift](#) to NPR Illinois;
- f. Serve as ex officio members to the NPR Illinois board and future committees, as formed;
- g. Submit story ideas for NPR Illinois at any time.

NPR ILLINOIS UPDATE

1. NPR Illinois is beginning to plan Public Radio Week, which is anticipated to offer a series of opportunities to engage the public through live radio programming, celebrity events, a fundraising gala and other activities to celebrate Illinois' public radio community.
 - a. CAB members are invited to share their thoughts with Nice Bogdanovich, nbogd2@uis.edu about event ideas to celebrate Public Radio Week.
2. NPR Illinois' strategy for its coverage of the 2018 elections is to focus more on issues than on the daily campaign news.
 - a. A McCormick Foundation grant is supporting efforts to track first-time voters.
 - b. The NPR Illinois team may wish to consider the number of women who are running for public office in Illinois and whether that mirrors the national trend.
3. A pilot of PodCamp@NPR occurred in Springfield over the summer to engage 24 students in producing their first episode of a podcast.
 - a. Sponsorships will be sought to support future versions of PodCamp and to support middle-school students who cannot afford the program fee of \$300.
 - b. CAB members are invited to share ideas with Nice Bogdanovich at nbogd2@uis.edu regarding potential businesses or organizations that would be interested in supporting the effort.
4. A partnership with AARP Illinois continues to engage members of the public throughout Illinois in discussions about seeking solutions to Illinois' fiscal outlook and the impact on our communities and institutions. The next two public forums follow:
 - a. September 20, 6 p.m. in Urbana, I Hotel and Conference Center (Lincoln Room)
 - b. October 2, 5:30 p.m. in Chicago, Union League Club

CAB members are asked to help build attendance at each forum by sharing the upcoming events with their networks and informing them that the forums are aired live on NPR Illinois, aired again on the following Mondays at noon and posted on FaceBook for viewing live or on demand.

5. NPR Illinois' mission includes training, which currently can involve training future public affairs journalists and training the public in media literacy. The CAB discussed ways to support this training role in a meaningful way.

- a. Given the change in the media landscape and the decline in the number of reporters dedicated to covering public affairs and the Illinois Statehouse, the CAB affirmed that NPR Illinois does have a significant role in training public affairs reporters. This likely would be done through partnerships with other journalism programs, including the UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) graduate program.

Potential partners to consider follow:

- i. The News Literacy Project
- ii. Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism
- iii. DePaul University's College of Communication
- iv. ProPublica
- v. Better Government Association
- vi. CapitolFax

- b. NPR Illinois is including educational components in the annual Roster of Illinois Public Officials, which provides contact information but will be expanded to include information to guide the public in how to contact their public officials.
6. A compounding list of story ideas suggested by the CAB are included on Attachment 1 to this meeting summary.

NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for the following:

Friday, December 7, 2018

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Chicago with videoconferencing options

AARP Illinois Chicago office, 222 N. LaSalle Street

AARP Illinois' Legislative Office, 300 West Edwards Street

Conference call line: 1-877-237-9944

Conference Call ID number: 200 083 607#

ATTACHMENT 1

ONGOING LIST OF STORY IDEAS FROM THE CAB

Story ideas suggested by the CAB follow.

1. For the 9/7/18 meeting:
 - a. Workforce development
 - b. Broadband access in rural Illinois
 - c. Transportation in rural Illinois
 - d. Success stories of entrepreneurship
 - e. Our veterans' crisis
 - f. Treasurer/Comptroller office consolidation
 - g. Progressive income tax
 - h. The Civil War for the soul of the House Republican Caucus – Can Liberty Principles PAC and the Illinois Opportunity Project oust Minority Leader Durkin and the Republican establishment?
 - i. Dependency of the Republican caucuses on Bruce Rauner's money – what happens to the GOP if Rauner loses the race for governor in 2018?
 - ii. Democratic Party funding base (trade, service, teachers, public employee unions, trial lawyers, hospitals/nursing homes) is stronger than the GOP funding base without Rauner and Ken Griffin.
 - iii. Reshaping the House Republican Caucus and the “economic liberty” Republican Party
2. For the 6/1/18 meeting:
 - a. Pension reform
 - b. Redistricting
 - c. State employee morale
 - d. The appeal of basic public services (police, fire, water, garbage) of those who immigrate to Illinois
 - e. Who would want to run for public office
 - f. Illinois' adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment
 - g. The effect of President Trump's tariffs on rural Illinois
 - h. The impact of the “Amazon tax” on local municipal budgets
3. For the 3/2/18 meeting:
 - a. 25th anniversary of the 1993 flood
 - b. In-depth look at why Illinois has been losing population
 - c. Election security
 - d. Illinois and the Census – what we stand to lose
 - e. Update on redistricting reform efforts
 - f. The growing number of partisan gerrymandering court cases
 - g. Possible litigation strategy for redistricting reform in Illinois
 - h. Second Amendment – point/counter-point comparison on Illinois' response to the threat of terrorist attacks and the threat of mass shootings
 - i. Illinois Bicentennial counter programming
 - j. Lockbox Amendment implementation

ATTACHMENT 1

- k. Health and fitness concepts in the CrossFit culture
 - l. Springfield/local government budget process
 - i. Police and firefighter pension issues
 - ii. Declining sales tax revenue and local governments
 - m. Education funding – how does the new, evidence-based funding model work?
 - i. What is the history of why the state funds suburban/downstate pension costs and not those for Chicago? What does Chicago get in return?
 - ii. What would be the impact of shifting pension costs to local school districts?
 - n. Government rules/regulations on businesses
 - o. History of the 3% compounded pension annual increase
4. For the 12/1/17 meeting:
- a. Census, what it means to Illinois, our changing demographics, and concerns about its politicization.
 - b. Is Redistricting Reform Dead?
 - c. Long Term Impact of Budget Impasse on Illinois' Institutions of Higher Education (i.e., enrollment decline, loss of faculty and NIH research grantees, etc.)
 - d. The new downstate Illinois electorate: The rise of Trump and the disappearing Democrats
 - e. Why downstate no longer hold the key: Rethinking Paul Green's classic thesis for winning statewide elections
 - f. A road to nowhere: Why the lock box won't solve our transportation infrastructure crisis and what to do about it
 - g. Rauner and the Business community vs Ives and Make America Great Again: The fight for the ideological soul of the Illinois Republican Party
 - h. Facing Governor Rauner, Labor looks like one big happy family: Is it really – Can the trades, the service workers, the teachers, AFSCME, and policemen & firemen really get along?
 - i. Getting serious about budget cuts: Can Illinois set priorities or is a war of attrition through never ending budget stalemates and unpaid bills the only way to make state government smaller in order to balance spending and revenue?
 - j. Local economic development corporations: Can cities and county make something that sometimes works at the state level work for them?
 - k. Rights, tolerance and accommodation: Can secular society and the faith-based community still find common ground to solve public problems?
 - l. Impact of proposed tax cuts in higher education.
 - m. Death of expertise – Who needs experts and knowledge?
 - n. Term limits versus district maps
 - o. Welcoming / sanctuary cities