



The Monitor

RAISING THE BAR BY MONITORING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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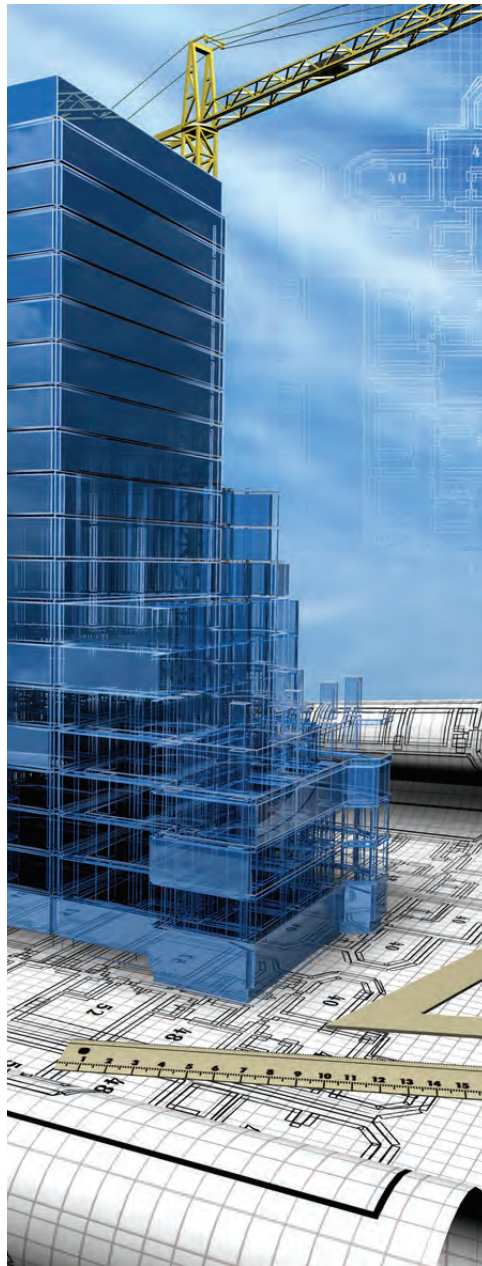
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BLUE STAIRS



III FFC Celebrates 20 Years of Raising Standards

On Thursday, September 12, 2019, the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Museum of Science and Industry. The event was well attended with 350 public officials and friends of labor gathering for this milestone in our history.

We started out the program with a video commemorating twenty years of raising standards in the construction industry. The video featured IUOE Local 150's President Business-Manager Jim Sweeney, Financial Secretary David Fagan, III FFC Executive Director Marc Poulos, and Countryside Mayor Sean McDermott. Our video highlighted the history of the organization and its evolution over the last twenty years.

The Foundation was started because Local 150 saw contractors who cut corners and cheated out of pay on prevailing wage projects. Over the past twenty years our accomplishments include: passing groundbreaking prevailing wage laws; implementing the Safe Roads Amendment; a \$45 billion Capital Bill in 2019; and overturning \$253 million in contracts to non-responsible contractors in the last decade alone. These accomplishments have justified the expansion of our organization, which is more than triple its size today.

Following the video, United States Senator Dick Durbin kicked off the program discussing the important role transportation plays in the economic development of Illinois. Next, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs congratulated the Foundation on this milestone and reflected on notable moments that demonstrated our commitment to raising standards in the construction industry.

Over the last 20 years we have built this organization into a premier fair contracting organization and look forward to what the next 20 years bring!

Next, III FFC's first Executive Director Michael Quigley talked about the early years. The Foundation was started in 1999 after IUOE Local 150's then Business-Manager, William Dugan learned about the value fair contracting organizations brought to other states in raising labor standards. They followed a model of hiring from the ranks of law enforcement to enforce prevailing wage laws. Dugan decided to start a fair contracting organization in the Midwest, and we have only grown since then. Next, President Business-Manager Jim Sweeney reflected on Local 150's ability to add value in the construction industry for members, signatory contractors, and end users through implementing a fair contracting organization in the Midwest. As a Trustee of the Foundation, Sweeney noted our efforts to ensure that tax dollars go to contractors who play by the rules while maintaining a standard of quality in construction that is unrivaled across the country. III FFC's Board Secretary, Dave Snelten also remarked on his enthusiasm for building a labor-management organization that is active and innovative throughout our three-state jurisdiction.

Finally, Executive Director Marc Poulos ended the program by thanking everyone in attendance. He noted that we could not achieve this level of success alone and thanked current and past Trustees of the Foundation, ending with a special thank you to our staff that work to make this organization what it is.

Over the past twenty years, the III FFC has become a premier fair contracting organization and we look forward to what the next twenty years bring.



III FFC Highlights of 2019

LETTER FROM THE Executive Director Marc R. Poulos

Overall, we had a busy and successful year and we look forward to seeing what 2020 brings our great organization!

This year proved to be a busy yet rewarding one for the III FFC. As you may recall, we started out 2019 evaluating the state of our roads and bridges across Illinois. After public outcry over the closure of several bridges in the state due to structural deficiencies, we used this public awareness to spearhead the most comprehensive infrastructure improvement bill in Illinois' history following decades of inadequate funding. With new leadership under Governor Pritzker, this capital bill will help Illinois thrive by providing just under \$2 billion in sustainable transportation funding every year for state and local governments.

Aside from the capital bill, we also helped pass Senate Bill 1474, the Collective Bargaining Freedom Act, which serves the purpose of prohibiting any political subdivision in Illinois from passing "right to work zones." We worked closely with Local 150 member and State Representative Lance Yednock to protect workers and union-signatory contractors and we could not be prouder of its success. In addition to passing key legislation, we are immensely proud of III FFC Trustee Dan Aussem who was sworn in as the Mayor of Ottawa this past May.

Because educating the public is key when it comes to responsible bidding, we hosted a successful prevailing wage seminar in Lakemoor, Illinois with 70 attendees ranging from public bodies, contractors, and IUOE, Local 150 Business Agents. We also led efforts to establish responsible bidder ordinances ("RBOs") throughout our jurisdiction with 100 RBOs on the books in Illinois. Aside from our efforts to educate the public on prevailing wage, we welcomed a new Construction Analyst to our team, Lydia Simrayh.

Our Indiana team was also hard at work raising standards in the construction industry. To start, we helped pass RBOs in the town of Kouts and LaPorte County Library with a total of 46 RBOs passed in Indiana. We also participated in the United States Department

of Labor Davis-Bacon Survey for residential work in Indiana, which serves the purpose of collecting information from contractors to set future prevailing wages on federally funded residential projects.

Finally, our Western Illinois and Iowa team had many accomplishments. We hosted our annual Construction Industry and Public Official Appreciation Dinner and partnered with local entities in Iowa to encourage Metropolitan Planning Organizations to opt out of the Iowa Federal Aid Swap Program. In addition, we helped pass an RBO in the Village of Roscoe and several National Apprenticeship Week Proclamations in cities dedicated to utilizing the highest quality workers. Finally, we welcomed new leadership with the promotion of Andy Waeyaert as the Regional Manager of Western Illinois and Iowa and welcomed Construction Analyst, Jeff Holland to the team.

As an organization, we also had the pleasure of participating in a nationwide Prevailing Wage Conference at the IUOE, International Training Center in Crosby, Texas to share prevailing wage compliance strategies.

Our efforts to raise standards in the construction industry were showcased at our 20th Anniversary Celebration this past September. The event was a great success with 350 public officials and friends of labor gathering for this milestone in our history. We were proud to highlight our great organization, which has expanded to more than triple its size in the last two decades. Shortly after our 20th anniversary, we also celebrated the retirement of one of the Foundation's longest employees, Thomas Frailey, who has been with the organization since its inception in 1999. Overall, we had a great year and we look forward to 2020!



Prevailing Wage Act Strengthened With SB 203

In the 2018 Fall/Winter edition, we highlighted the need for a new survey process by which the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) was ascertaining the prevailing wage rate. We discussed Senate Bill 203 which, at the time, had been passed by the General Assembly and was expected to be signed by Governor-Elect Pritzker. This bill would consist of the first major amendments to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act since 2012.

As was anticipated, Governor Pritzker signed Senate Bill 203 into law on his first day in office. Taking effect on June 1, 2019, the law made sweeping changes and will ensure the chaos of the previous administration will not ensue when determining the prevailing wage rate. Specifically, prevailing wage rates are now based on collectively bargained agreements, where the agreements cover at least 30 percent of workers in the locality where the work is being performed.

Prior to this amendment, a public body awarding a project was given the authority to investigate and ascertain the prevailing rate. If the public body did not do so, IDOL ascertained the rate for the county in which the public body was located. Now, IDOL will be the sole agency with the duty to ascertain whether an agreement covers at least 30 percent of workers in a given locality. Where an agreement does not cover at least 30 percent of workers, IDOL determines the rates for the same or similar work in the nearest or most similar locality in which such an agreement does exist.

The amendments to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act go far in promoting a strong construction industry that emphasizes equality, skilled workmanship, and good middle class jobs.

This change will help smooth a survey process that saw unnecessary chaos and mishandling in the previous administration. As was highlighted in our last newsletter, Illinois had never seen a Republican administration attack middle-class protections as it had under Governor Rauner. The IDOL under former Governor Rauner attempted to create a confusing and nonsensical methodology that elicited

widespread criticism throughout the industry. Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 203, in 2016, the General Assembly passed an identical bill to help alleviate IDOL's confusing prevailing rate survey process, however that was bill was vetoed by Governor Rauner – another attempt to attack Illinois' working families.

Senate Bill 203 also contains new minority and women reporting requirements. IDOL must now report to the General Assembly the numbers of minorities and women on public works projects including plans

to increase minority and female participation on such projects. Additionally, the bill requires new reporting on local employment on public works projects – a requirement that will help working families throughout Illinois.

The amendments to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act are substantial and go far in promoting a strong construction industry that emphasizes equality, skilled workmanship, and good middle-class jobs. ■



Melissa Binetti
Counsel for the III FFC



Kara Principe
Counsel for the III FFC



Joseph Sweeney
Counsel for the III FFC



Dylan Parker
Construction Analyst



FOCUS ON Iowa



The III FFC thanks ACQC for welcoming us on the Committee and we look forward to growing our successes!

III FFC Joins Quad Cities Government Affairs Committee

The Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting (III FFC) is a labor-management organization, funded solely through participating contractors, established to support, promote and encourage fair contracting. By working with both labor and management, we provide a level playing field in the public construction industry. One direct way in which the team in Western Illinois and Iowa facilitates this partnership, is by participating on the Associated Contractors of the Quad Cities' (ACQC) Governmental Affairs Committee. As part of their mission to work as contractors on local labor negotiations, industry networking and local governmental projects' specifications review, the ACQC established a standing committee to work with the III FFC to address public policy issues affecting the public sector construction industry in the Iowa-Illinois Quad Cities area.

III FFC, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, and ACQC members' staff regularly meet for committee meetings to discuss issues impacting all parties. The first major success of the fledging partnership was the combined effort to advocate against the

Iowa Department of Transportation's Federal Aid Swap Program, of which the Quad Cities' Metropolitan Planning Organization voted to opt-out. By advocating from both a labor and business perspective, policymakers were able to understand the benefits of opting out without the polarizing effect of partisanship. Since then, the Committee continues to coordinate efforts

One direct way in which the team in Western Illinois and Iowa facilitates this partnership is by participating on the Associated Contractors of the Quad Cities Governmental Affairs Committee.

between labor and management to further public policies that ensure fairness within the industry.

At this past year's III FFC Annual Construction Industry & Public Official Appreciation Dinner, when discussing the III FFC, outgoing ACQC President Matthew J. DeCap stated in his address, "After a year of being involved as President of the Associated Contractors, and from a personal business standpoint, I can definitively tell you this organization works tirelessly for the companies in the construction industry."

The III FFC thanks the ACQC for welcoming us on the Committee and we look forward to growing our successes!

Mark Szula Roscoe Village Board President

For the past 35 years, Mark Szula has been a friend of labor, a proponent of high quality construction, and an advocate for policies ensuring fair treatment of skilled craftsman and safe work environments. Mark's dedication to a life of service began with his enlistment in the United States Marines Corps upon graduation from high school. During that time, he served two tours of duty in Beirut Lebanon, and was part of Operation Urgent Fury (also known as the U.S. invasion of Grenada). After returning to the United States, he worked as a welder, building conveyers and crushers. Mark signed on with the IUOE, Local 150 Operating Engineers in April of 1985, and since that time has never looked back. After spending 21 years in the field, Mark was hired on as an Organizer in August of 2006. In September of 2007, Szula was appointed to Business Agent, a position he proudly holds to this day.

In addition to serving both our country and Local 150, Szula is active in his community. In April of 2017, Mark was elected to the Village Board of Trustees in his new hometown of Roscoe, Illinois, and less than two years later, he was elected to the position Village President. Mark immediately prioritized creating growth in Roscoe, and has played a role in bringing

new businesses to town as well as annexing an industry leading iron foundry. As President, Mark employs a hands-off approach in managing his department heads and avoids micro-management, which he says had previously hindered the Village's growth. With a fresh start, Szula's top priorities are creating a clear vision for building necessary infrastructure and attracting businesses to Roscoe. In terms of construction, Szula will focus on larger development projects along Interstate 39/90 corridor and is seeking State funding to improve the critical but congested Rockton Road and I-90 interchange.

In the short time Szula has served as Village Board President, he has already scored some major victories. Recently, he helped pass an improved Responsible Bidder Ordinance in Roscoe, which likely would not have succeeded had it not been for his passionate support. He stated that anything new can be seen as a challenge, but he is confident that everyone will see the value of looking at things with an open mind. The III FFC had the privilege of working closely with Szula in pitching the RBO to the Village Board. As Village Board President, Szula has already made great progress and looks forward to seeing what lies ahead in 2020 and beyond.





III FFC Hosts Successful Prevailing Wage Seminar

On Wednesday, October 8, 2019, the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting hosted its 5th Annual Prevailing Wage Seminar at the IUOE, Local 150 District 3 Hall. We teamed up with the Underground Contractors Association (UCA) and the Mid-America Regional Bargaining Association (MARBA) to bring this seminar to public officials in the Lake and McHenry county area. Our seminar focused on educating public bodies on the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Responsible Bidder Ordinances (RBOs). Overall, we were pleased with the turnout with 70 attendees ranging from public bodies, contractors, and IUOE Local 150 Business Agents.

Our seminar began with representatives from the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) discussing compliance requirements for the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. Robert Parrilli, Division Manager with IDOL, gave a brief introduction of his department and then turned the floor over to Doris Acevedo, Labor Conciliator with IDOL's Conciliation and Mediation Division, for an in-depth presentation of the Act. Her presentation started off with the purpose of the Act which requires contractors and subcontractors to pay hourly prevailing wage rates to all workers on public construction projects. Acevedo also discussed the role of IDOL, which ascertains rates that prevail in 102 counties in Illinois and conducts investigations to determine whether workers have been paid the prevailing wage.

Following IDOL's presentation, Michael Duffee, Partner at Thompson Coburn LLC, gave a management perspective on the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. His presentation focused on what every contractor should know about the Act, including a contractor's responsibilities for subcontractor compliance and penalties for violations.

Next, Frank Manzo, IV, Policy Director of the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI), talked about the economics of prevailing wage. His presentation discussed the economic benefits of prevailing wage such as its ability to level the playing field for contractors, boost productivity and safety, promote ladders into

the middle class, provide great value for taxpayers, and build quality infrastructure in Illinois. Manzo also discussed examples of states that have repealed prevailing wage and the economic impact it left. For example, Indiana weakened its prevailing wage laws from 2012-2014 and then repealed prevailing wage in 2015, ultimately not saving a penny in the state's construction costs.

The afternoon session started with a presentation from Leah Bartelt, Assistant Attorney General on FOIA requirements. This presentation helped public bodies understand requirements FOIA Officers must follow in terms of yearly training, and requirements for responding to a FOIA request. Bartelt noted that while FOIA's purpose is to create transparency and accountability at all levels of government, public bodies are not required to generate new records to respond to a FOIA request.

Finally, the seminar concluded with a presentation on responsible bidder ordinances (RBOs) from Josh Weger, III FFC's Policy Director. RBOs establish verifiable standards and objective criteria to ensure a public body is employing "high road" contractors on public works construction. Weger's presentation educated public bodies on the definition of "responsible bidding" in public works construction. Responsible bidding laws require state and local governments to award contractors to the "lowest responsible bidder." He noted responsible is not always defined and it is important for public bodies to understand that lowest responsible bidder does not mean the lowest dollar amount, but the lowest dollar amount bidder who is most capable of doing the work in a satisfactory manner. Our organization has been successful in implementing responsible bidder ordinances with 100 RBOs on the books in Illinois and 46 in Indiana.

In years past, we have hosted a seminar in Downers Grove, Freeport, and Rockford. We enjoyed partnering with UCA and MARBA for the Lakemoor seminar and plan to bring this seminar to a new area of our jurisdiction going forward. ■

CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT



Curran Contracting

The Curran family has owned Curran Contracting for four generations, with the fifth generation now joining the legacy. William Curran first founded the company in 1918 as Metropolitan Coal & Ice. Soon after, market changes demanded migration from the coal and ice business to heating oil, and thus Suburban Oil was formed.

As the need for fuel oil proved to be highly seasonal and the demand started to trend downward, the company moved into road construction and in 1938 Curran Contracting Company began operations in the McHenry County region.

Since that time, Curran Contracting developed a solid and successful track record and has generated a loyal customer following based on its reputation for quality workmanship and timely completion of projects.

Curran Contracting Company currently operates as a subsidiary under Curran Group, Inc (CGI). CGI subsidiaries span a variety of industries, from asphalt paving and railway services to tile manufacturing and paint finishing systems. CGI and all the subsidiaries collectively operate with the core values of family, respect, partnership, integrity, and improvement.

Through growth and acquisitions, Curran Contracting Company enjoys effectively serving the vast majority of Chicagoland's regions and beyond. We offer superior asphalt paving, excavation, demolition, underground utilities, project management, recycling, clean soil disposal, asphalt mixes, site work packages and more. Curran Contracting Company

has the experience and resources available to satisfy your need and project requirements. Curran Contracting Company's proficiency in project management, estimating and quality control make sure your project budget and timeline are met with exceptional care. Curran Contracting Company's areas of expertise span commercial, industrial, public sector, subdivision and residential markets.

We have a large and diverse lineup of equipment and expert staff to transform your project site. Throughout the project, our team evaluates all aspects of your project,

from the work that will be performed to the equipment needed, so that issues are addressed ahead of time.

We understand how critical the staging and coordination

with other subcontractors is to the success of your project.

Recently we have expanded our services and expertise with new operations in Texas. Operating out of San Antonio, all the services we have been providing Illinois, and more, are now available to this new market.

As a leader in both the public and private transportation sectors for over 80 years, we have built and sustained a reputation for integrity and excellence. We develop our long-lasting relationships by listening to our customers' needs and treating them as partners to better build their projects. Our proven successes span projects of all sizes and types so you can trust true experts to handle your next project. ■





Marcella Kunstek
Construction Analyst



Indiana Team Completes USDOL Residential Survey

FOCUS ON Indiana



The process is about protecting collectively bargained rates and benefits for Local 150 contractors and members.

Earlier this year, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) conducted a Davis-Bacon survey for residential work in Indiana. The purpose of the survey was to collect information from contractors to set future prevailing wages on federally funded residential projects. Such projects include single-family homes, multi-family homes, and apartment buildings (four stories or less).

The Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting (III FFC) began working on the survey in October 2018, when we attended an informational seminar held by USDOL. At this meeting, we learned that USDOL sent letters to contractors identified through past data collection and “dodge reports”. USDOL letters contained information regarding the type of construction being surveyed, the area being surveyed, the survey period, and the cut-off date for data submission. The purpose of the letters was to encourage contractors to respond to the survey. In addition, USDOL reached out to government agencies, congressional representatives, contractor trade associations, and unions at both the local and headquarter levels to advise them of the survey and solicit their cooperation in furnishing wage data.

Next, the III FFC worked on identifying contractors who performed residential work during the survey period, as defined by USDOL. In January 2019, we sent packets of information to contractors containing a letter explaining the process and offering to assist in any way. Moreover, we supplied important links and hard

copies of the WD-10 survey form to complete. As an organization, we played an active role by encouraging participation in the survey and making sure contractors understood that their survey responses were crucial to establishing rates based on CBAs. This will allow our contractors to remain competitive when bidding on future federal projects.

The USDOL was available and helpful throughout the survey process by responding to questions and explaining details of the data collection process. The survey is yet another example of the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with our local, state and federal agencies.

Overall, when the survey concluded in July, we had a great response from Indiana contractors that submitted data for over 700 pieces of equipment on residential projects. The data collection process is not easy but necessary. When we expressed to contractors the importance of the USDOL survey data, most contractors were extremely helpful. We are encouraged by the good response and we appreciate their participation.

In the end, this process is about protecting collectively bargained rates and remaining competitive when bidding on federal construction projects, to benefit Local 150 contractors and members.

Andrew Waeyaert

Regional Manager Western Illinois and Iowa

Andrew Waeyaert has been an advocate of labor for the duration of his professional career. He joined the III FFC in 2018 as a Construction Analyst and was recently promoted to Regional Manager

of Western Illinois and Iowa. Prior to joining the III FFC, Andy began his career with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in 2005, starting as a summer construction technician while studying at Western Illinois University. After graduating in 2007, Andy accepted a position with United State Congressman Phil Hare who represented Illinois' 17th Congressional District on both the Transportation and Education Labor Committees. Waeyaert stated, "Working for Congressman Hare was an honor I will never forget. His passion for standing up for working class people continues to inspire me to this day. When an opportunity to get back into the transportation construction industry came up I couldn't pass it by."

Upon returning to IDOT, Andy was assigned special projects that allowed him to be involved in a wide variety of issues, from implementing preventative maintenance schedules, extending the usefulness of state-owned equipment, to assisting on vegetation layout for construction projects. In 2011, Andy was promoted to the Safety, Claims, and Training Manager within the Bureau of Administration for District 2. Waeyaert stated, "We covered a lot of issues, but the most important was working with management and employees on developing and implementing safe work practices. When I got the job, there was virtually no safety training, and it showed. Worker injuries were high, and morale was low. Working with my District Safety team, we identified weaknesses and developed a series of

safety trainings based on OSHA standards and industry best practices." In the coming years, the data showed that Andy's approach to focusing on worker education particularly in safe work practices, paid off and worker injuries declined steadily.



He stated, "I carry the knowledge from my time at IDOT that a better trained workforce equals a better work product to my work here at the III FFC." It was precisely that knowledge that has help Andy work with both the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District and the City of East Moline in passing Responsible Bidder Ordinances (RBOs).

Andy lives in the Quad Cities with his wife and high school sweetheart, Abbey and their two children, Kennedy and Lincoln. Active in his community, Andy volunteers for various political candidates and serves on the Moline Coal Valley School Board. Andy credits his successes to his maternal grandparents who raised him. Waeyaert stated, "My grandparents taught me that no matter what happens in life if you are kind to others and work hard things will work out in the end."





Thomas Haley
Construction Analyst



Grand Opening of Countryside Municipal Building

FOCUS ON Illinois



The City of Countryside proves to be a leader in the future of municipal sustainability.

On October 19th, the City of Countryside officially cut the ribbon of their new 34,700 square foot state-of-the-art municipal building and police department. On this sunny Saturday morning, approximately 130 members of the Countryside community, elected officials, and city staff came out to dedicate the opening of the new facility. Before the ribbon cutting, Mayor Sean McDermott addressed the guests gathered on the front steps, discussing his excitement about the new facility not only for the people who will be using it but for future generations to come. After the ribbon was cut, the crowd went inside the new City Council chambers, where staff and officials led guided tours throughout the building, highlighting all the technological aspects that went into the construction.

Along with housing the administrative offices of the City, the building complex will also be home to the Countryside Police Department. The department will have improved spaces and meeting areas for the department's 24 officers, as well as secured detention areas that meet Illinois Department of Corrections standards, interview space, armory, and evidence processing areas. In the basement level, there is a state-of-the-art fitness facility and men's and women's locker rooms for the Police and city

staff to utilize. Also, in the basement level is a community room that has audio visual hookups and projectors and can be partitioned into two separate rooms, that is available to anyone in the community to rent for free of charge.

The facility was proudly constructed using Union labor and is the first and only net zero efficiency municipal building in Illinois, which

The new Countryside municipal building was proudly constructed with Union labor and is the first and only net zero efficiency municipal building in Illinois.

means that it produces as much, or more energy than it consumes. The building is also a LEED Gold Certified facility. It utilizes geothermal wells that have been dug throughout the footprint of the building, which bring water from hundreds of feet down to the surface to be utilized in heating and cooling and features 635 solar panels on the roof that will provide 100% of the building electrical needs. The building also features an air-tight design, water efficient plumbing fixtures, insulated low-emissivity glass that allows for natural light to help lower electricity costs, and

has charging stations for electric vehicles. The City of Countryside has proven themselves to be real leaders in showing what the future of municipal sustainability and union construction can look like, and the III FFC is proud to be a community partner with the City of Countryside.



Tom Frailey Retires After Nearly 20 Years of Service

After nearly two decades working with III FFC Executive Director Marc Poulos (left) and III FFC's first Executive Director, Michael Quigley (right), Thomas Frailey retires from the III FFC leaving behind a great legacy.

Tom Frailey, Director of Field Operations, retired September 30, 2019 after nearly 20 years of service. Prior to being promoted to the Director of Field Operations in January of 2018, he served as the Indiana Regional Director for 12 years, preceded by his first six years as a Compliance Monitor in Indiana. Previously, Tom served 35 years with the Indiana State Police. He began his career as an officer in 1965, moving through the ranks serving as a Trooper, Sergeant, First Sergeant, Lieutenant District Commander, and Captain. He is a graduate of the State Police Academy, the FBI National Academy and the Southern Police Institute School of Administration.

When the III FFC began in July of 1999, the primary objective of a Compliance Monitor was to identify and investigate prevailing wage violations and file complaints with the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL). One year later, the III FFC expanded its scope to northern Indiana. In July 2000, Tom Frailey was hired as one of the Foundation's first Indiana Compliance Monitors. With decades of investigative work and strategic planning under his belt, he quickly discovered that public construction compliance in Indiana would require a different approach than in Illinois. Tom made it his mission to address obstacles head on and worked hard to develop new methods to hold contractors accountable and ensure adherence to federal, state and local laws on public works projects.

In 2006, he was promoted to Regional Director and oversaw the Indiana Team of Compliance Monitors (now known as Construction Analysts). During his 12-year tenure as Regional Director, he helped shape the field operations of the III FFC into

what it is today. He advocated for establishing new processes and significantly contributed to facilitating a more pro-active and progressive approach to compliance monitoring. Tom helped shift the focus from being reactive, to being proactive by getting ahead of the construction bidding process by working with public bodies to level the playing field for responsible contractors. Most importantly, Tom was instrumental in the development of a system to track public works projects and easily spot problem areas to accurately gauge how much public construction work is being awarded to and performed by responsible vs. non-responsible contractors in our market.

Tom devoted himself to paving the way for the Field Operations to continue to advance. As Director of Field Operations, he promoted a culture of teamwork and consistency across Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. He targeted individual potential in our field staff and implemented new processes and tools to make room for growth.

Dedicated to the ever-growing and evolving nature of the III FFC, Tom likes to imagine that he will hardly recognize the field operations in five years, hoping that it will be five years better and stronger. Tom's visionary leadership has been exemplary for the III FFC. He has been a mentor to many, and his influence has made an indelible impact on generations of analysts in the organization. We want to thank him for all he's done for the development and progress of the III FFC. Tom has given almost 20 years to this organization and his achievements will not be forgotten. We wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement!



III FFC Provides Prevailing Wage Update At NAFC

Following the III FFC's 20th anniversary celebration, we headed to the National Alliance for Fair Contracting's (NAFC) Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. The III FFC and the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI)

had the opportunity to participate in this year's conference focusing on updating attendees on the state of prevailing wage throughout the country. ILEPI Policy Director, Frank Manzo IV discussed the benefits of prevailing wage focused on five core messages. Manzo stated that prevailing wage levels the playing field for contractors, strengthens the economy, and boosts worker productivity. Moreover, he also noted prevailing wage improves worksite safety, promotes ladders into the middle class, and provides the best value for taxpayers while building quality infrastructure.

As a nonprofit organization, ILEPI has authored over 40 studies on prevailing wage, responsible contracting, and apprentices since 2013. The findings are consistent across states that repealing prevailing wage laws do not equate to cost savings. For example, in 2015, Indiana repealed its prevailing wage laws and saw a decrease in the economic development of the state. ILEPI's research found that blue-collar construction workers' wages in Indiana decreased by eight percent and construction worker productivity was five percent slower than the neighboring states of Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan.

The III FFC also had the opportunity to highlight some of its 2019 initiatives. In Iowa, the III FFC partnered with local affiliates from the Quad Cities area to opt-out of the federal aid swap program.

In addition, Executive Director Marc Poulos presented in a plenary session with labor leaders across the country on applying prevailing wage and labor standards to utility, energy, and pipeline projects. He discussed the need to target and track such projects as prevailing wage projects. In furthering our mission of raising standards in the construction industry, fair contracting groups should work to acquire utility, energy, and pipeline projects because they go hand in hand with other prevailing wage projects such as road construction and this will increase opportunities for union work.

Next year, the NAFC Conference is scheduled to return to Chicago and we are excited for our affiliates to join us in Illinois where prevailing wage continues to thrive. With new leadership under Governor Pritzker and the passage of our Capital Bill, we look forward to sharing our continued progress in our State at next year's conference.

ILEPI's research found that blue-collar construction workers' wages in Indiana decreased by 8 percent and construction worker productivity was 5 percent lower than neighboring states of Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan.



L-R: III FFC Executive Director Marc Poulos; ILEPI Transportation Policy Analyst Mary Tyler; Chief of Staff for Will County Executive Larry Walsh, Nick Palmer; and RUSH leader Scott Slocum.

III FFC Presents at RUSH Forum addressing Will County Infrastructure

This past fall, the III FFC had the opportunity to speak at Will County’s Residents United for Safer Highways (“RUSH”) forum on the benefits of how the Capital Bill helped secure I-80 funding. The RUSH group formed two years ago and played a critical role in advocating for the \$45 billion capital infrastructure improvement bill passed by state legislators in 2019. III FFC Executive Director, Marc Poulos and ILEPI Transportation Policy Analyst, Mary Tyler both had an opportunity to address residents of Will County on the important work needed in their county.

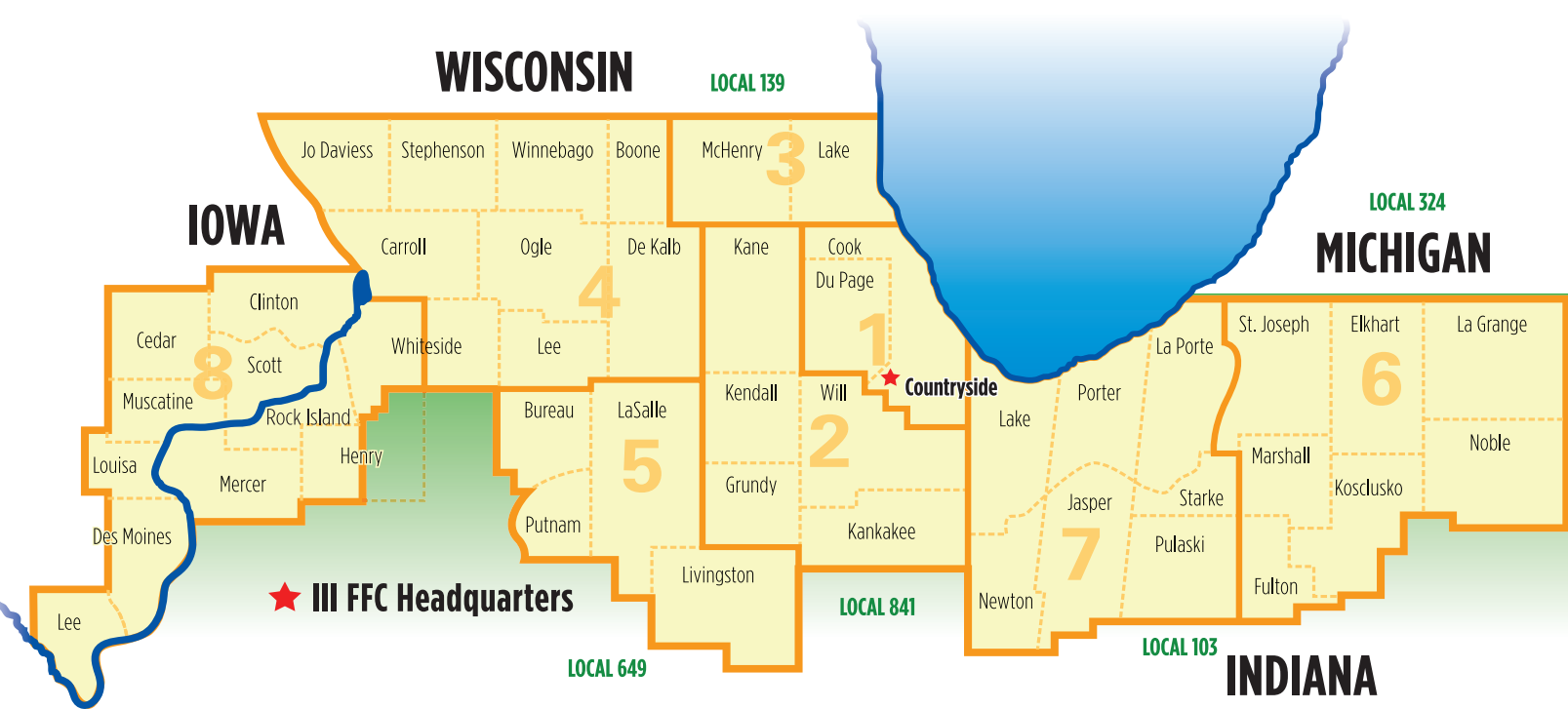
Of importance, the Illinois Department of Transportation identified more than \$1.2 billion in improvements needed to I-80. As you may recall from earlier in 2019, there was public outrage over structural deficiencies over the Des Plaines River bridge in Joliet that are now among many signature projects of the Rebuild Illinois program. Speakers at the RUSH forum utilized data to emphasize why traffic safety is an important concern in Will County. Most importantly, Will County is expected to experience a growth in population, jobs,

and traffic. Tyler stated, “Will County experienced a 21% increase in traffic between 2005 and 2018, while the state as a whole saw 0.19 % increase in traffic during the period.” In addressing the

increase in population and traffic concerns, we need to ensure that our infrastructure is keeping up with growing populations.

Poulos also addressed Will County’s booming economic and infrastructure needs. He stated, “The regions booming economy is not necessarily a bad thing. You’re going to see a third airport. It is needed. The Federal Aviation Administration said so.” Moreover, due to years of insufficient funding, Will County has been playing catch up with its infrastructure needs. Overall, its an exciting time to be in Illinois with the necessary funds available to update critical infrastructure.

IDOT identified more than \$1.2 billion in infrastructure improvements needed to I-80 to address structural deficiencies in key bridges and roads throughout Will County.



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