

INTRODUCING YOUR

# 2025 IAMIC BOARD

January 2025

Shopping the..



Front Row: Abel Castor, Jackie Rakers, Linda Olson, Katie Smull, Matt Harford Back Row: Beth Wingerter, Chris Feldt, Ben Leezer, Jeremy Weak, Steve Carroll

Chair Ben Leezer invites you to shop the IAMIC Market, where you'll find... **Resources** and **Tools** to help you work smart and efficiently. **Networking** opportunities (Education and Social) that will help you to connect with suppliers and peers while building professional and personal contacts in the insurance world. **Sales & Marketing** to help you sell the advantages and market the value of the Farm Mutual industry.

### 2025 at a Glance

Jan 22	Claims Seminar & Hotel Early Bird Cutoff	
Jan 31	Updated Member Data Sheets Due	
Feb. 5	IAMIC Board Meeting	Bloomington
Feb 5 & 6	Claims Seminar & Tradeshow	Bloomington
Feb 6	GR Advocacy Updates	9 a.m. (Zoom)
March 3	Joe Reid Scholarship Applications Due	
March 6	GR Advocacy Updates	9 a.m. (Zoom)
March 7	Joe Reid Scholarship Winner Announced	
March 7	Regionals Early Bird Cutoff	
March 19	Industry Insurance Day	Springfield
March 20	North Regionals	Deer Grove
March 21	South Regionals	Effingham
April 1	Underwriting Early Bird Cutoff	
April 1	Educational Scholarship Application Deadline	
April 3	GR Advocacy Updates	9 a.m. (Zoom)
April 15	Underwriting	Peoria
April 16	Educational Scholarship Winners Announced	
April 29-30	40th Annual CCP	Washington D.C.
May 1	GR Advocacy Updates	9 a.m. (Zoom)
June 5	Golf Networking	Springfield
July 15	Nominees due for Company Achievement, LAUTUM & Fire Dept. of the Year	
Aug 1	Convention Early Bird Cutoff	
Aug 18-20	IAMIC Convention	Peoria
Sept 28	NAMIC Convention	San Diego, CA

### REGIONALS SEMINAR

**March 20 Deer Valley Banquets**      **Deer Grove**  
**March 21 Keller Convention Center**      **Effingham**

Join us for our Regional Meetings in March! Tailored specifically for directors, these sessions will address your unique needs. This year's agenda features essential topics, from revising policies to understanding key financial ratios. Our presenters will help you understand the importance of monitoring your business book (Opterrix will show you where your concentration lies). Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and network with peers! Early Bird Deadline Date is Mar 6, 2025. Sign-up on or before Mar 6 and save \$45.00 For online registration, go to the IAMIC Website, then click "events" in the blue menu bar; scroll down to the 2025 Regionals Seminar and select the yellow "Click here to register" bar to save \$25 on your registration. Bring five or more directors/staff to this meeting and save 20% of each registration.

#### Regional Seminar Tentative Agenda

- 09:15 - 10:15 -- Hot Spots in The Insurance Industry
- 10:15 - 10:45 -- Break
- 10:45 - 11:45 -- It's All About The Money
- 11:45 - 12:45 -- Lunch
- 12:45 - 01:45 -- Take A Little Off The Top
- 01:45 - 02:00 -- Break
- 02:00 - 03:40 -- Top 10 Cases of The Last Decade



### ROGER E. NEEDHAM EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The IAMIC scholarship program offers three scholarships worth, each worth \$1,000, to help enhance your staff's knowledge. The IAMIC Board of Directors understands that financial concerns may lead companies to reduce their education expenses. The Board believes that education fosters knowledge, which is critical for success.

To apply for the **Roger E. Needham Educational Scholarship**, please visit the IAMIC website. Navigate to the "Members" section, then click "Scholarships" to find the application. Submit your application today! The deadline is April 1. The winner will be notified on April 16th.



**CCP celebrates their 40th Anniver-**

NAMIC has been hosting the Capitol Contacts Program for 40 years and in those 40 years, Illinois is the **ONLY** state to have participated **every year in representing the Mutual Industry on the hill!** Join us as we travel to Washington, D.C. in April 2025. (You may even get to see the cherry blossoms in bloom!) It's our goal to have an even larger and stronger delegation attend on April 29 & 30. You can go to the IAMIC website and apply for a scholarship. **Applications are due by March 3, 2025.** This is your opportunity to be present and discuss the pressing issues of the Mutual Industry with your Congressmen and women.

You are invited to our **Illinois Advocacy monthly calls**. All Mutual members are encouraged to participate in these monthly Government Relations (GR) advocacy calls. During these sessions, you will join our lobbyist, Evan Manning, along with members of our GR committee, who can provide insight into any concerns. These discussions aim to generate topics and information that contribute to a more substantial legislative process. Please refer to the schedule of calls on Page 1.

**Did you know that if you have 10 or more employees, you are required to follow the Secure 2 Act for Retirement...ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE?**

The new law requires that you offer retirement savings options for employees (even part-time if they have worked over 500 hours in a three-year time frame). **Companies are not required to contribute, but they must have an option available for their employees.**

*Beginning in 2025, this law requires employees to automatically enroll in the plan at a 3% contribution rate. Employees who do not wish to make this contribution must opt-out, and employers should keep a signed document. IAMIC offers a multi-employer 401K plan that offers discounted costs and ensures compliance with the IRS documentation.*

Contact the IAMIC office for details...217-563-8300

The *Vision of IAMIC* is the long-term sustainability of the Mutual Insurance Industry of Illinois.

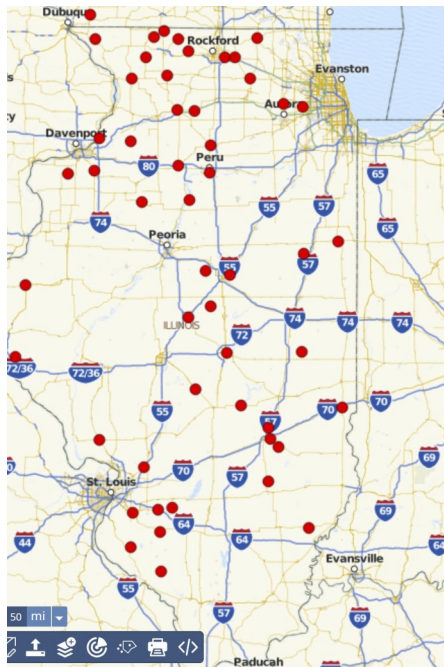
**The IAMIC Board of Directors Goals for 2025**

**Advocacy, Membership, Reinsurance, Communication, Policy Manual, Play Book**

We will assist you in designing a new playbook to help you achieve knowledge, sustainability, strength, and support for your business.

Our goals were designed to feature the best resources for your mutual.

**OPTERRIX FREE MEMBER BENEFIT!**



**INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



**Linda Olson, Town & Country Mutual**

Linda is our new Secretary/Treasurer. She has 18+ years of experience in the mutual industry, having served as a CSR, Underwriter, and Manager with two mutuals and on the Convention and Education Committees.



**Abel Castor, Hamlet Mutual**

Abel grew up on a farm in Illinois and worked in the corn/soy industry using his B/S in Agronomy for two years before joining Hamlet Mutual as an agent in 2016. He became assistant secretary/Treasurer in 2021.



**Jeremy Weaks, Prophetstown Mutual**

Jeremy has worked in the Mutual Industry since 2012 and became the Manager in 2016. He earned his PFMM and has been active in the state association as a member and on multiple committees. Remy has served on the IAMIC Board and has chaired the Education Committee. He received the Volunteer of the Year award in 2024.

**Opterrix** can identify exactly where your policies are located and if they're in the path of a storm. The image above shows Mutual office locations. This is an invaluable member benefit designed to empower you to manage claims and underwriting more effectively. By utilizing Opterrix, you can proactively assess and mitigate risks, leading to better decision-making and enhanced overall efficiency in your processes. With this essential tool, you can avoid potential issues and improve your strategic planning. We have resources on the IAMIC website and a monthly class on Tradewing to help you get started.

If you're not utilizing this FREE software, call the IAMIC office.