

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Please forward to your local newspaper when you return home from the conference.)

_____ (Participant's Name) of the _____ (district name) School District recently participated in a 3-day conference sponsored by the Illinois Association of Educational Office Professionals (IAEOP) at the William Tell Holiday Inn in Countryside, IL.

Presenters included the following:

Jeff May, Regional Operations Mgr.-Vulcan Materials

On Friday afternoon, Jeff conducted a History In Stone, a guided bus tour of Vulcan Materials, a working stone quarry in Hodgkins.

Dr. John Burkey, Superintendent of Schools-Consolidated School District #158-Huntley

Dr. Burkey has been a leader with a passion for the best school environment for children to learn. He strives for excellence in SD158. Committing himself to serving and gaining the trust of students, district employees, parents, and the entire District 158 community, he has done just that. Areas of achievement include: Students reading at their grade level, Chinese language introduced at the middle schools; and elevated ACT scores at the high school, which recently received the Red Quill Award. Dr. Burkey attended the University of Illinois, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in history with a minor in economics, his Master's Degree in Administration, as well as his Doctorate.

Mr. Paul Parise, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Representative

Mr. Parise works with employers and members to assist them with IMRF related questions. The workshop for active employees provided answers regarding the IMRF retirement system, benefits offered to active members and the steps that must be taken before and during the retirement process. His workshop for retirees was geared towards those already receiving a monthly pension. An opportunity for questions and answers were provided during both sessions.

Paul joined IMRF in 1990 as a Senior Accounting Clerk and was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Treasury in 1991. He then worked as a Member Service Representative from 1992 to 1997. Paul has been a Field Representative since 1997. He earned a B.A. in 1991, M.B.A. in 1995 and his Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) designation in 2008. As a field representative he conducts employee workshops, Authorized Agent Certification Programs, and other informational presentations.

Mr. Robert Ware, Director of LaGrange West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Ware's workshop for retirees provided information on opportunities to volunteer for this unique not-for-profit organization. His second workshop focused on how the Chamber interfaces with business of all sizes.

Robert Ware is the Executive Director of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce. The nine communities that comprise this Chamber of Commerce include Countryside, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook, Western Springs and Willow Springs, which collectively encompass an area of over 100 square miles and support a growing population of 65,000+. These vibrant communities offer economic prosperity, outstanding educational and business opportunities for people of all ages, a high level of health care, superior recreational activities and a rich diversity of entertainment, civic organizations, and cultural attractions.

Elizabeth Liz+Sexson-Professional Standards Program-The Professional Standards Certification Program is the only certification program for educational office employees. Naomi explained the program to those in attendance and assisted in determining the approach to earning the recognition and certification. Liz is Retired Emeritus, Consultant. Special Events, Chicago Region for SIU. She served as President of IAEOP from 1981 to 1983 and of NAEOP from 1997-1998. She was elected Illinois Education Office Professional of the Year twice, and National Education Office Professional of the Year in 2001.

IAEOP and NAEOP are the only state and national professional associations for educational office personnel. The organizations are dedicated to providing professional growth opportunities for their members and continue to work toward increased recognition for educational support staff as an important component of the educational team.

Both organizations recognize the unique role of educational office professionals and the important contributions they make to the profession. The prestige, status, and credibility of IAEOP are enhanced by its affiliation with the National Association of Educational Office Professionals. IAEOP is also recognized by the Illinois Principals Association and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

_____ (name) has been with the _____ School District for _____ years and serves as _____ (position).

For information on IAEOP and/or its conferences, visit our website, www.iaeop.com, or contact Denise Struve, IAEOP Public Relations at 1001 S. Spring Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525 or dstruve@d105.net