



**The Illinois Guardianship Association**

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[www.illinoisguardianship.org](http://www.illinoisguardianship.org)

IGA NEWS

APRIL 2009

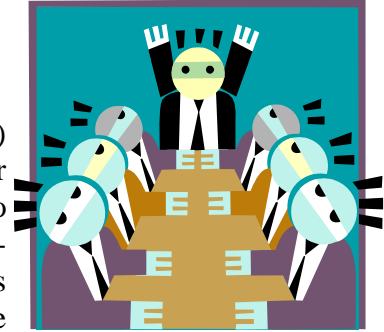
This year the IGA celebrates **TEN YEARS** of service to the guardianship community in Illinois.



### Past Presidents of the IGA

Laura Sakas	1998-1999
Susan Mc Mahon	1999-2000
Fred Floreth	2000-2001
Perry Patterson	2002-2003
Sherry Rudy	2003-2004
Catherine Goebel	2004-2005
Ben Brown	2005-2006
Bill Scheidemantel	2006-2007
John Erbes	2007-2008
Perry Patterson	2008-2009

## Celebrating Ten Years



For the past ten years the Illinois Guardianship Association (IGA) has provided training, support and networking opportunities for guardians. Over the years IGA has made pertinent contributions to the guardianship profession in Illinois. The IGA encourages legislation and administrative rules that advance the highest standards of guardianship. The Association continues to promote a positive image of guardianship and educate guardians and caregivers. Over the past ten years IGA has sponsored over 40 trainings for guardians! IGA also partnered with the NGA in 1999 and developed a Guardianship Conference in Chicago. Again in 2008, IGA hosted the first ever IGA/ NGA Colloquium; a program which focused on the rights of wards and drew participants from all over the country. The Illinois Guardianship Association was one of the first state organizations to affiliate with the NGA. Additionally the NGA and CGC boards have seen their share of IGA members as volunteers, such as John Wank, Fred Floreth, Kathy Eddy, Rhonda Williams and Susan Mc Mahon. The Illinois Guardianship Association welcomes our new members and thanks the dedicated individuals who serve as officers, on our board and on committees to ensure the professionalism of guardians throughout the state.

### **Illinois Guardianship Association—Election Results**

#### **Officers 2009-2010**

President	Gina Rossi
President-Elect	John Wank, J.D.
Vice- President	Steve Perlis, J.D.
Treasurer	Sandra Hayes
Secretary	Helen Godlewski, MBA
Immediate Past President	Perry Patterson. M.A.

#### **Board Members 2009-2010**

Catherine Goebel, M.A., MS Ed.,  
John Corneille, J.D.  
Ben Brown, J.D.  
Anthony Rothert, J.D., MSW  
Susan Hagrelius, LCSW, MSW  
Bill Scheidemantel, J.D.  
Charles Golbert, J.D.

## President's Report

**This is the usual time for the outgoing president to summarize the year's events. So, here goes:**

**In April, 2008, the IGA helped program and develop with the National Guardianship Association (NGA) a Colloquium on *The Rights of Wards*. The colloquium included attendees from many states and was so successful that the NGA is holding another colloquium this year titled *The Ethics of Our Decisions: Avoiding the Danger Zones* to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

**The IGA passed its first ever budget which helped us see where we are and where we want to go in the next several years. The IGA board adopted a Work Plan which pursues direction and planning for 1-3 years out. It is hoped the plan will provide continuity from year to year as we change presidents. Other business actions included the investments of reserves into a certificate of deposit and acquiring general liability coverage for conferences held at various sites in the state.**

**To help determine initiatives to include in the work plan mentioned above, a questionnaire was mailed to all IGA members for whom we had e-mail addresses. The results were posted in a previous newsletter. It was an exercise that proved to be very useful for current and future actions.**

**The IGA is providing information and assistance in pursuing some legislative rule changes in the Illinois Public Guardian law. This action along with legislative action regarding the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA) will be summarized elsewhere in this newsletter. Please make sure you review these two important initiatives and how they will affect guardianships.**

**As president of the association, I attended the NGA Annual Conference in Nashville in October. These conferences are really important if for no other reason than to learn what other states are doing and issues they have. Lots of networking goes on plus a bit of fun time! Also, a very important function for the president is to participate in NGA affiliate's member calls. This means one is on the telephone with 14-15 other states while learning more about guardianship issues. The 2009 NGA conference will be in Las Vegas October 3-6<sup>th</sup>.**

**However, what I have spent most of my time on this year is planning for the Springfield conference that hopefully will prove to be interesting, educational and fun as the IGA celebrates its Tenth Anniversary!**

**Respectfully submitted, *Perry H. Patterson*, President**



## UAGPPJA

### The Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act

When Governor Quinn signs HB 759, Illinois will be the 5th state to adopt the UAGPPJA, an act addressing problems related to multiple jurisdiction, transfer and out of state recognition for guardianships. The two sponsors of the bill, Representative Kathy Ryg of

Vernon Hills and Senator Ira Silverstein of Chicago, both IGAC commissioners, pushed passage through their respective chambers. The bill is supported by the IGA and NGA, the NAELA (National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys) the CCPL (National College of Probate Judges) and the Alzheimer's Association. Eric Fish of the Uniform Law Commission, the commission that created and drafted the bill, worked with IGAC staff and other advocates to educate legislators and testify in favor of the bill. UAGPPJA contains provisions concerning jurisdiction over adult guardianship and conservatorships and other protective proceedings. It sets forth guidelines to specify which court has jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated adult by prioritizing the states which might claim jurisdiction.

The bill, among other tenets, provides for communication and cooperation among courts. IGA is proud that Illinois is taking a lead role in demonstrating the importance of this Act.



**Representative Ryg**

## The Public Guardian legislation

In 2006 the IGA formed a subcommittee to look at the guardianship system in Illinois. Fred Floreth, Gina Rossi, John Wank, John Erbes and Sharon Rudy examined ways to simplify gubernatorial Public Guardian appointments while ensuring that prospective appointees meet minimum certification requirements. The results of this subcommittee are HB 2539, sponsored by Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano and a companion bill, SB 1929 sponsored by Senator Ira Silverstein, both IGAC Commissioners. The two similar versions made their passage through the respective chambers with some slight differences and have now been rectified so the proposed language is uniform. The House Bill passed its chamber and was picked up by Senator Silverstein, where it is now awaiting its third reading in the Senate. With these dedicated sponsors IGA hopes the public guardian bill will be passed on to the Governor for his signature. The bill amends the probate act of 1975 and provides that the Governor may appoint one person to serve as public guardian in multiple counties and that each Public Guardian must be certified by the center or Guardianship Certification.

For more information or to read the bills in full please visit:



**Representative Saviano**



**Senator Silverstein**

[www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)

*Legislative report submitted by Gina Rossi*

# IGA BOARD MEMBERS

1998-2009

Anthony Rothert, J.D., MSW;  
Benjamin Brown J.D  
Catherine Goebel, MA, MS Ed.  
Charles Golbert, JD  
Fred Floreth, J.D., MG  
Gina Rossi  
Greg Fitzgerald  
Helen Godlewski Brownfield  
John Erbes, J.D.;  
John Wank, J.D.,  
Kathy Eddy  
Laura Sakas, JD, LLM  
Laura Williams,  
Laura Zorich  
Linda Begnel, R.N.;  
Mary Jo Swengrosh  
Peggy Palmer  
Perry Patterson  
Sandra Hayes,  
Sharon Rudy, J.D.  
Steve Perlis, J.D  
Sue Sherock  
Susan Hagrelus, MSW, LCSW;  
Susan Lorraine Kennedy, J.D.  
Susan McMahon, J.D.  
Terrance Godbolt, J.D.  
William Scheidemantel J.D.



*Fred Floreth (left) with  
John Erbes*



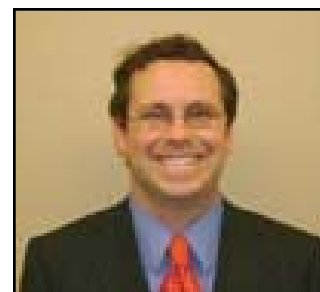
*John Wank*



*Catherine Goebel and  
Greg Fitzgerald*



*Susan McMahon*



*Anthony Rothert*

## Certified Guardians in Illinois

Freddie Addison  
Ernestine Aseves  
Judith Atherton  
Sarah Baldwin  
Doreen Basso  
Jacqueline Battle  
Vanessa Bennett-Oliver  
Michelle Berkley-Wright  
Henry Brennan, Jr.  
Deneen Brooks  
JoAnn Brown  
Jane Browning  
LaDonna Burton  
Krista Butler  
William Caldwell  
Kevin Carter  
Lorraine Chappell  
Patricia Cline  
Pamela Connell  
Margaret Cross  
Edwin Davila  
Gary Doherty  
Aleshia Droegkamp  
Joyce Ebster  
Robin Faulkner  
Nancy Fritz  
Greg Fritzgerald  
Myrna Gilgore  
Signe Gleeson  
Helen Godlewski Brownfield

Catherine Goebel  
John Goodwine  
Susan Hagrelius  
Sandra Hayes  
DeAnne Hopkins  
Sharon Isom  
Joan Jackson  
Timothy Jenkins  
Pamela Johnson  
Heidi Kirksey  
Thomas Kleinhenz  
Barbara Kolaski  
Theresa Kopeny  
Heidi Kronenberg  
Ben Lampitt  
Deborah Leurquin  
Ricardo Lopez  
Margaret Lyons  
Gregory McMenimen  
Daniel McNeil  
Marcia McRae  
Jennifer Miller  
Josh Mitzen  
Mary Murphy  
Jeffrey Ohlson  
Freda Omer  
Michael Papadakis  
Teresa Parks  
Michael Pintar  
Thema Robinson  
Cheryl Rogers  
Gina Rossi

Sharon Rudy  
Ginger Rye  
Laura Sakas  
Mary Saunders  
William Scheidemantel  
Diane Schingel  
James Schmitt  
Margaret Sedgwick  
Madeleine Sharko  
Lauren Sherman  
Michael Sierra  
Penelope Smith  
Joseph Stafford  
Glenna Starkey  
Kathy Jane Sturm  
Alexandra Summerfelt  
Benjamin Topp  
Dorothy Townsend  
Tam Tran  
Michael Vercellino  
Mary Ann Voss  
Richard Wachtel  
John Wank  
Luise Warren  
David West  
Laura Williams  
Louis Williams  
Lisa Williams-Stepney  
Doris Wohlgemuth  
Rogers Woods

## Master Guardians in Illinois

**Joanna Bell-Schmid**  
**Kathleen Ann Eddy**  
**Frederick Floreth**

**Penny Rausch**  
**Rhonda Williams**

*The IGA has many different subcommittees looking for new members and fresh perspectives, such as the newsletter, conference planning and legislative issues.*

*For a full list of committees and opportunities contact US!*

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**IGA/IGAC**

**Summer Conference**

**June 18, 2009**

**Hines, Illinois**

**For details visit**

**[www.illinoisguardianship.org](http://www.illinoisguardianship.org)**

### **Most SSDI and SSI Beneficiaries to Receive One-Time Stimulus Payment**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka the stimulus bill), Congress has authorized one-time \$250 payments to most Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of either program who were eligible for benefits during November or December 2008 or January 2009 will probably receive the additional payment in May.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the payments will be distributed to beneficiaries in the same manner that they currently receive their benefit (either by check, debit card, or direct deposit) but the payments will not be included in the same transaction as a beneficiary's regular monthly payment. This means that beneficiaries should be on the lookout for two separate payments during May.

People with special needs who receive both SSDI and SSI benefits will receive only one \$250 payment, and SSDI beneficiaries under age 18 (or 19 if they are still in school) will not receive any payments at all. However, anyone receiving a payment does not have to worry about the additional income affecting his government benefits -- the stimulus payments do not count as "income" for either program, and will not count as an available resource for nine months following receipt of the funds.

The SSA has created an online pamphlet describing the payments and providing additional details for beneficiaries.

go to:

<http://www.specialneedsanswers.com/resources/article.asp?id=6086>

**Invoice**  
**Illinois Guardianship Association**

**2009 Dues Notice**

**Illinois Guardianship Association**  
**501c3**  
**PO Box 64845**  
**Chicago, IL 60664-0845**

**Phone 312-458-9867**

**Federal ID#36-4254121**

**Description: IGA Membership Fee for 2009**  
**Dues payable to: Illinois Guardianship Association**

Mail this page with payment

Total Amount Due (check one):

\$75 Illinois Guardianship Association member only

\$25 Member of the National Guardianship Association and Illinois Guardianship Association

\$25 Family, Consumer, Student, Non-Professional

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\* Required

**Please indicate if you agree to have your personal contact information posted on the IGA's website in the membership directory.**

**Please check one.**

**Yes - name only**

**Yes - name, city**

**Thank you** for your interest and participation in the Illinois Guardianship Association. For questions, concerns, information or to become involved in one of our many committees, please contact Sandy Hayes via email at [Sandra.hayes@illinois.gov](mailto:Sandra.hayes@illinois.gov)

**Is it time for you to renew your IGA membership?**

Questions? Give us a call (312) 458-9867

**Visit us on the world wide web at  
[www.illinoisguardianship.org](http://www.illinoisguardianship.org)**

**IGA Board of Directors**

President- Perry Patterson  
Vice President- Steve Perlis  
President Elect- Gina Rossi  
Treasurer- Sandra Hayes  
Secretary- Helen Godlewski  
Past President- John Erbes

**IGA Board Members**

Cathy Goebel  
John Wank  
Bill Scheidemantel  
Susan Hagrelus  
Chuck Golbert  
Linda Begnel  
Greg Fitzgerald