

DCEO Director keynotes Annual Meeting

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Warren Ribley is the featured speaker at the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Wednesday, September 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive in Tinley Park.

Governor Pat Quinn appointed Warren Ribley as Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in March 2009.

In his first term, Ribley prioritized the state's economic development efforts which resulted in Illinois creating more jobs than any other Midwestern state coming out of the global recession.

Highlights of Ribley's first two years as Director include:

- Building the state's green economy and helping create more than 12,000 new jobs in the green sector.
- Training in high-growth sectors – DCEO is developing the state's workforce to meet the challenges of jobs in health care and health care technology, manufacturing, transportation-logistics, and the green sector.
- Increased investments in entrepreneurs

and innovation: Mr. Ribley has led the charge to market and support Illinois as an innovation hotspot.

- Building up disadvantaged communities through economic development and infrastructure programs.



Warren Ribley

Ribley began working in state government in 1979, serving for twelve years in the Office of the Illinois Senate President. He joined the Office of the State Treasurer in 1991 and became the Director of Banking in 1993 under now-Governor Quinn, managing relationships between the State of Illinois and over 500 financial institutions. Before being named

Director of DCEO, Ribley

served as DCEO's Director of Operations, where he led the day-to-day operations of the agency for six years.

A native of Olney, Illinois, Ribley has lived in Springfield with his family for over 30 years.

"We're excited to have Warren Ribley keynoting our Annual Meeting," said Jim Garrett, Chicago Southland CVB President/CEO. "Mr. Ribley is very aware of tourism's impact on the state economy, and he's been a major supporter of tourism initiatives throughout the state."

(Continued on the next page)

CVB awards \$1,970 grant to Irons Oaks

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau's Local Tourism Grant Committee and Board of Directors recently approved awarding a \$1,970 grant to Irons

Oaks Environmental Learning Center, operated by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

Irons Oaks is a 37-acre nature preserve offering experiential training and teambuilding programs to organizations throughout the Midwest.

This grant will pay for 60% of the cost to produce a new general brochure, social media outreach, and search engine optimization for Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center.

The Chicago Southland CVB awards up to \$46,000 in Local Tourism Marketing Grants in five cycles throughout the year. Grantwriting Workshops are held five times per year, with the next workshop scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, at 9:30 a.m. at the CVB offices.

For more information about the Local Tourism Marketing Grant program, contact Kim Kislawski at 708-895-8200 or kim@visitchicagosouthland.com.



Deb Stanfield (center), Adventure Center Coordinator at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center, receives a \$1,970 Local Tourism Grant check from CVB Marketing Manager Kim Kislawski (left) and President/CEO Jim Garrett (right). The funding will be used for brochure printing, social media initiatives, and website optimization.

DCEO Director at CVB Annual Meeting (from the previous page)

The Annual Meeting on September 14 kicks off with a reception and networking at 11:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and program at 12:00 noon. The event concludes at 1:30 p.m.

Garrett reports on the programs and accomplishments of the Chicago Southland CVB during the past fiscal year, and winners are announced for the CVBs five annual awards: Member of the Year, Municipal Leadership Award, Volunteer of the Year,

Tourism Leadership Award, and Awards of Merit. The CVB will also present the Southland Stars of the Industry Awards, a recognition program for hotel employees.

To register your attendance at the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, go to the secure web registration site at: <http://budurl.com/AnnualMeeting>

For additional information, contact Elizabeth Baun at 708-895-8200.

Send Us Your News!

We're always looking for news items for the **Chicago Southland Scoop**. Take a moment to jot down some of the news of your business: new hires, promotions, renovations, etc., and send them to PR Manager Bob Lukens at bob@visitchicagosouthland.com or fax to 708-895-8288. Promote your business through **The Scoop!**

DoubleTree wins prestigious brand award



The entire team at the DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago – Alsip, 5000 W. 127th Street, was recently presented the 2011 DoubleTree CARE Cup Award for the first quarter of 2011 by DoubleTree brand officials. This honor makes the DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago – Alsip the top DoubleTree property of over 220 DoubleTrees worldwide.

Each quarter the CARE Cup Award is presented by DoubleTree Hotels to recognize the hotels that deliver a caring and welcoming experience to guests, team members and community, and demonstrate the DoubleTree CARE Culture. CARE, which

stands for Caring, Attentive, Responsive, and Empowered, is DoubleTree's commitment to total service quality that equates to brand personality.

This isn't the first time the DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago – Alsip has won awards: in 2004, the hotel team won the DoubleTree Crystal Cookie Award, and in 2005 and 2006 the hotel won the DoubleTree Pride Award for Quality Performance. In 2007, the hotel team won the 2nd Quarter Care Cup Award and in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, the DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago – Alsip received the Excellence in Quality Award from Hilton Worldwide!

Local Tourism Marketing Grantwriting Workshop

Learn how to prepare a grant application for your municipal marketing projects or festivals & events!

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Chicago Southland CVB offices

2304 173rd Street, Lansing, IL 60438

Call 708-895-8200 to RSVP your attendance.

Join Your Tourism Colleagues

for the

**Chicago Southland
Convention & Visitors Bureau's**

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

at the newly expanded

Tinley Park Convention Center

with keynote speaker



Warren Ribley, Director
Illinois Department
of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

For more information, please call Elizabeth Baun at 708-895-8200
To reserve your seat or table, go to: budurl.com/AnnualMeeting