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**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HOSTS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

HANOVER, ILLINOIS - Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) hosted their Annual Meeting for 2025 celebrating the organization's 16th Anniversary on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at Timmerman's Supper Club in East Dubuque. The event gathered approximately 130 stakeholders from over 40 local and regional organizations and involved a NWILED Board of Directors meeting, business spotlights, guest speaker remarks, and the organization's annual Collaboration Awards.

During the NWILED Board of Directors meeting, which was led by Board Chair, William Jahnke, Mr. Janke was reelected for another three-year term, and Ron Smith was reelected to serve a one-year-term on the NWILED Board of Directors. During his chair remarks Jahnke commented, "NWILED continues to provide strong support for business retention and expansion in Northwest Illinois." NWILED's 2025 Officers were also elected to serve on the organization's Executive Committee. David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director, closed the business portion of the program with remarks about the successes NWILED experienced in 2024 and gave a preview of the organization's planned programming for 2025. He also announced the public release of NWILED's 2024 Annual Report, which is available in both English and Spanish at www.NWILED.org.

Recognized at the event was NWILED's ongoing Made in NW Illinois business spotlight series. This past year's spotlights included Guide Line Industries of rural Scales Mound, Carroll County Newspapers (Savanna Times Journal and Carroll County Mirror-Democrat) and Galena Mill & Steel, with owner Ryan McClain sharing details about their operations.

NWILED Vice Chair Joe Mattingley also spoke on the importance of economic development and support of regional organizations like NWILED and NWILED Secretary Amy Baker debuted the org's new Group Pooled Retirement program collaboration.

The evening ended with the announcement of NWILED's Collaboration Awards. The 2025 recipients were:

- Collaborator of the Year award went to outgoing NWILED Marketing Manager, Christine Soat for her continued support to the org as an independent contractor for site selection services.
- The Member of the Year award went to Adkins Energy of Lena for their over and above support of NWILED's Manufacturing & Trades Day 2024.
- Board Member of the Year award went to Diane Gallagher of the Jo Daviess County Board for her assistance in launching the new JDC Small Business Development Grant, overseeing the rewrite of the county's comprehensive plan, and her overall board engagement with NWILED.
- Community of the Year award went to the Village of Hanover for their recent Route 84 and Main Street capital improvements and in celebration of Don Schaible's 40-year tenure as mayor. Schaible's mayorship began in 1985.

"NWILED would like to acknowledge the ongoing support presenting level members Conlon Construction, JCE Co-op, Arrow Group and Jo Daviess County give to NWILED," said NWILED Regional Director, David Schmit. "We also appreciated the photography assistance from Brendan Sullivan of 1826 Creative and Timmerman's Supper Club gave that helped make the evening successful."

ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was formed in 2008 by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors whose main goals were to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. The Board's focus was to form a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

Today, NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses in determining their needs for growth with cooperation of



government and business partners. NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employ all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.