

# Village of St Anne

## President's Report

April 12, 2010

1. Water Tower Grants – Finally, we receive the \$207,000 that we were owed from the State of Illinois on the 2006 and 2007 grants. It's been a long battle, but we finally were paid what we were owed. We can close out this pressing item and focus on the future.
2. Phoenix Fabricators. I spoke with Phoenix Fabricators and informed them that they would be receiving their money. There were very happy to hear this news. I thanked them for their patience and their understanding of our situation.
3. Census Reporting – As of today our Village is at 74% counted. There is only a few days left for our citizens to fill out the survey. If you know of anyone who has not filled out their census please encourage them to contact the Village Hall so that we can get them a form. It is very important that we get everyone counted.
4. Committee Meetings – I am going to be evaluating our standing committees for the coming year. If anyone wants to change committees please let me know and I'll see what I can do. I'll have the new committees ready for next month. Also, if we need to change the times of your standing committee meeting, please let me know.
5. Federally funded projects – I received a very disappointing phone call from US Rep. Halverson office last week. We will not be receiving funds for any of the three projects that we submitted. The projects that we submitted were water main, sanitary sewer main and a road project. I wasn't given a good explanation of why none of our projects were accepted. I'm sure this being an election year had a lot to do with where the her Federal funds were going to be spent. It's just unfortunate that small towns like ours consistently get overlooked when it come to Federally funded projects.
6. I attended a Budget Hearing for the State of Illinois on Saturday. Rep. Lisa Dugan and Rep. Toi Hutchinson hosted this presentation. Specifically, this presentation dealt with House Bill 174. This bill will raise your State Income Tax by 67% from 3% to 5%. Plus, 29 service industries will now be paying a State Income Tax. To say the least, it was very interesting. The speaker was very good and very slick. He had a lot of graphs and a lot of information to explain why the taxpayers of Illinois need to pay more in State taxes and how we need to tax certain service industries. Boy was he good at numbers! However, a lot of his numbers were miss-represented and misleading. However, I was not fooled by

what this guy was doing with his data. In the past, I used to do business presentations and I was very good at making numbers and percentages say anything I wanted. This guy was doing the same thing and I think a lot of people bought what he was selling. He even had people asking if we could have a Constitutional Amendment that would impose a higher tax on rich people. It was quite interesting to say the least. The bottom line in this presentation is that our State is in dire financial difficulty and the only way out was to raise taxes.

I don't know where you all stand on this matter, and I don't want to influence your decision, but rest assured that these new taxes would affect you and everyone you know. Lisa and Toi both have said they are going to vote in favor of this new bill. What I didn't hear from the presentation, other than taxing us, was what steps were being taken to fix the problem. What was our State Government doing to recruit businesses and manufactures back to our state? How are they working to position our State as a place where businesses would want to locate? The loss of major businesses and industry over the last 30 years is the reason our state is in such bad financial shape. The loss of these businesses not only meant the loss of jobs, but the tremendous loss of tax revenue to the State. To me, they are missing the point to this whole problem. They are trying to replace this loss revenue by shifting the tax burden to the taxpayers. How much of this burden can we handle?

7. Barn Quilts – I was contacted last week by a group that is called the Kankakee Quiltmakers. This group has been designing and installing Barn Quilts throughout the Kankakee County. To date they have 21 quilts that have been hung on old barns. They are looking for a couple of old barns in the St Anne area. Their only criterion is that the Barns be at least 50 years old, and is on a paved road. If you know of any barns or Farmers that might be interested in this event, please let me know and I will get them in contact with this group.