



CBAI's 30th Annual Call on Washington a Success!

May 2, 2012

Nearly 50 community bankers from across Illinois, together with spouses and welcomed guests, participated in the CBAI's 30th Annual Call on Washington on April 24-27, 2012. The Illinois delegation met with their Members of Congress to discuss key legislation and issues including: the Communities First Act (H.R. 1697/S. 1600), the FI Examination Fairness Act (H.R. 3461/S. 2160), a five-year extension of the Transaction Account Guarantee (TAG) program, and strong opposition to any increase in credit union powers (H.R. 1418/S. 2231).

Again this year, CBAI's Call on Washington coincided with the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) Washington Policy Summit, which included nearly 1,000 members of the community banking profession from across the country. On Tuesday evening, CBAI members gathered for traditional Welcome Dinner which was held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. (Please see the Welcome Dinner pictorial at the end of this article.)

On Wednesday morning, ICBA President Cam Fine reviewed the issues facing community banks in preparation for the week's meetings with members of Congress and Federal banking regulators. Fine emphasized that community bankers have been passionate about their opposition to expanded credit union powers. He cautioned, however, that while we have been successful in preventing an increase in credit union member business lending, we must continue to be diligent.



Brian Hruska (First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher); David Feldhaus (FHLB of Chicago); Greg Ohlendorf (First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher); Robert Field (The Farmers Bank of Liberty); John Dorsey (First National Bank in Staunton); Mark Field (The Farmers Bank of Liberty); Brian Ury (First National Bank in Staunton); Bill Wubben (Apple River State Bank, Scales Mound); Congressman Bobby Schilling (R-Rock Island); Kraig Lounsberry (CBAI); Gerald Johnson (Grand Ridge National Bank); Rick Jameson (Morton Community Bank)

Again this year, CBAI bankers and staff visited with every office of the 21-member Illinois Congressional delegation and delivered CBAI's *2012 Federal Policy Priorities*. Particular attention was paid to the following:

The Communities First Act (CFA) contains a variety of regulatory and tax provisions benefiting community banks and the communities they serve. Regulatory, tax, and paperwork requirements impose a disproportional burden on community banks which diminishes their ability to encourage additional small business lending, fuel job creation and help create economic stability. The delegation urged lawmakers to co-sponsor this legislation.



Congressman John Shimkus (R-Collinsville); Rick Jameson (Morton Community Bank); Patty Clarke (First National Bank of Raymond); Robert Wingert (CBAI); Martin Rowe (First Eldorado Bancshares); Mary Sulser (Buena Vista National Bank, Chester); Bill Wubben (Apple River State Bank, Scales Mound); Kevin Beckemeyer (Legence Bank, Eldorado); Kim McKee (North Central Bank, Hennepin); Dennis Hesker (The First National Bank of Okawville); Robin Loftus (Security Bank, s.b., Springfield); Kraig Lounsberry (CBAI); Jeff Rabenort (Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Nashville); Mike Estes (The Fisher National Bank); Jason Knoedler (Bank of Springfield); Robert Field (The Farmers Bank of Liberty); Brian Ury (First National Bank in Staunton); Donna Hesker (The First National Bank of Okawville); Mark Field (The Farmers Bank of Liberty); Mike Kelley (CBAI)

The Financial Institution Examination Fairness Act sets forth a process to address the harsh regulatory examination environment which continues to be a top concern of community banks. Specifically, the legislation requires examinations to be completed in a timely manner, sets important examination standards, and establishes an independent Examination Ombudsman within the FFIEC to investigate bankers' complaints about regulatory examinations. CBAI encouraged lawmakers to co-sponsor this legislation.

Congress must act to extend the Transaction Account Guaranty (TAG) program, which provides full FDIC insurance coverage for non-interest-bearing deposits, before the December 31, 2012 expiration date. Failure to continue full coverage of these accounts would create disruption and uncertainty in the banking system. An important consideration is that this insurance coverage is not a government bailout and the FDIC insurance is fully paid for by the banks with their deposit insurance premiums. CBAI urged support for a five-year extension of the TAG.



Schroeder (CBAI); Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-Chicago); William Smith (HomeStar Bank, Manteno)

The Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 2012 is an attempt by tax-exempt credit unions to expand at the expense of tax-paying community banks. This legislation would give credit unions the opportunity to stray even further from their congressionally mandated mission and operate in a way that was never intended by Congress when they were given their tax-exempt status. CBAI sought lawmaker opposition to this legislation.

William Smith (HomeStar Bank, Manteno); Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Chicago); Greg Ohlendorf and Brian Hruska (First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher)



On Thursday morning, Kansas Senator Jerry Moran addressed the attendees. He is the sponsor of the Communities First Act in the Senate and stressed that community banks are systemically important to their communities; their relationship-based business model creates a symbiotic relationship between community banks and their customers. These relationships, not regulatory paperwork burdens, are essential for a safe and sound banking sector.

CBAI members had the opportunity on Thursday afternoon to meet with the banking regulators of their choice including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

The Call on Washington concluded on Thursday evening with an ICBA-sponsored reception and dinner. Entertainment was provided by The Capitol Steps.

Kim McKee, Vice President and Branch Manager of North Central Bank in Hennepin, participated in this year's Call on Washington. McKee said, "As Chairman of the CBAI's Career Development Division (CDD) I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the 30th Annual Call on Washington. Additional regulatory burdens, challenging compliance issues, and threats from non-banking entities continue to impact our day-to-day operations at community banks. By seizing the opportunity to meet with our elected officials and regulators in D.C., I feel that our united voice as community bankers was effectively heard. Communicating our positions on pertinent issues and asking for their support will further allow us to better serve our customers and communities. The opportunity to attend the Call on Washington was an incredible experience!"

Brian Hruska, Director of the First Community Bank and Trust in Beecher, also participated in this year's Call on Washington. Hruska said, "As an entrepreneur and director of our community bank in Beecher, Illinois, it was a heart-warming experience seeing the CBAI in action in Washington D.C. Without question I gained an expanded understanding of both the process and the issues most important to community bankers nationwide. The interaction with Congressmen, staff, and other bankers from all areas of country will no doubt improve my ability to be an effective director for our bank. I highly recommend other directors consider attending the CBAI's Call on Washington."

In addition, Scott Dobesh of SHAZAM attended in the Call on Washington. Dobesh said, "I would like to start by saying thanks to the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) for helping gather a great group of community bankers for the 30th annual Call on Washington event. As Chief Financial Officer of the SHAZAM network, I am proud to represent SHAZAM and help educate bankers and legislators on payment issues facing our industry today. As a network owned and controlled by community financial institutions, SHAZAM has been a long and proud sponsor and endorsed partner with CBAI. The Call on Washington is an excellent opportunity to meet other Illinois bankers and learn about their issues and opportunities. Using shared knowledge and working together to show support for common issues, we can use the Call on Washington to provide grass-roots education for legislators and staff, and I would encourage other community banks and service providers to participate or lend their support in this annual D.C. lobbying day."

Participation in CBAI's lobbying events in Washington and Springfield, and other grass-roots lobbying activities, are vital to maintaining the survival of a vibrant community banking profession and the franchise value of your community bank. Now is the time to get involved and make a difference!



Kevin Beckemeyer (Legence Bank, Eldorado); William Smith (HomeStar Bank, Manteno); Brian Hruska (First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher); Gerald Johnson (Grand Ridge National Bank); Greg Ohlendorf (First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher); Robin Loftus (Security Bank, s.b., Springfield); Congressman Mike Quigley (D-Chicago); Martin Rowe (First Eldorado Bancshares); Mary Sulser (Buena Viasta National Bank, Chesters)

Welcome Dinner

