

## Rural Partners of Illinois

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2013/2014 Chair, Matt Johnson, President, Illinois Telecommunications Association

2013/2014 Vice-Chair, Dr. Chris Merrett, Director, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs



### ~ Rural Partners Mission ~

*Rural Partners is a member driven forum  
that links individuals, businesses, organizations and communities  
with public and private resources to maximize the potential of rural Illinois.*

## The Voice of Rural Illinois – Your Voice – Needs to be Heard!

You can achieve greater results when you become a member of Rural Partners. You will be part of a statewide, comprehensive organization that focuses on the economic vitality, quality of life, and leadership development of rural Illinois. You will benefit from interacting with individuals and organizations across the state to help achieve important personal and community goals. Rural Partners helps you connect with the resources you need to enhance your community and economic development efforts. As a member, you will benefit from better communication with government agencies, utilities serving rural areas, rural healthcare organizations, financial institutions, private businesses, other rural community leaders, and numerous public and private resource agencies and organizations. The members and friends of Rural Partners represent the diverse population of rural Illinois and include representatives of local, state and federal government agencies, academic professionals, non-profit organizations, private businesses, and dozens of experienced individuals confronting similar challenges.

## Three Powerful Reasons to Join Rural Partners . . . .

**NETWORKING:** Rural Partners works to match your community with resources and services available through collaboration with other members as well as Federal, State and local agencies and policymakers.

**LEARNING:** Rural Partners co-sponsors and organizes training for rural leaders and residents who are striving to build a brighter future for rural Illinois by increasing their community's Leadership Capacity, Economic Vitality and Quality of Life.

**PROBLEM SOLVING:** Rural Partners facilitates the creation of private/public partnerships for rural communities searching for innovative solutions relating to issues such as rural economic development, health care, child care, housing, transportation, education, information technologies, workforce development, and an array of other challenges.

*Every member receives a weekly email newsletter plus announcements of current grants and funding opportunities!*

### *Rural Partners Annual Membership Categories* (please select "X" one)

- Corporate Member**..... **\$1,000**  
*Private sector corporations who are concerned about the future of rural economies, business development and the quality of life of rural Illinois residents. All Corporate Members, project sponsors and friends of Rural Partners whose combined annual dues and contributions exceed \$1,000 receive special recognition at all conferences and events sponsored by Rural Partners.*
- Regional Organization** ..... **\$500**  
*Public and private sector organizations whose sphere of responsibility and influence for community and economic development span broad territories and/or multiple counties that extend into portions of rural Illinois.*
- Local Government/Small Business** ..... **\$200**  
*Units of local government and small business owners who desire to become an active contributor to Rural Partners and collaboratively strengthen the "Voice of Rural Illinois."*
- Individual** ..... **\$50**  
*Individuals who are actively engaged in and/or wish to support community and economic development throughout rural Illinois.*

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment and return to Rural Partners, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703. Thank you!