

Good afternoon members,

Yesterday, Governor Pritzker unveiled the “Restore Illinois” plan. **Attached** is a one-page reference outlining this plan, regional map and overview of the five phases to this plan. The full plan will be included on our [Corona Resource](#) website page.

May is traditionally a busy month for celebrations. Mother’s Day, Graduations and end of year Thank Yous. We recognize this and know Geneva is still a sought-after place for gifts. **Attached** is a Facebook ad that is currently running for two weeks. Each panel links to the appropriate spreadsheet or spot on our home page encouraging purchasing items and gift cards from members. Just like each of you, we are discovering new ways to be creative.

Still bewildered on the PPP? Worker’s Compensation changes have your mind spinning? Every wanted to Ask Mayor Burns Anything? Got a question for Illinois State Representative Dan Ugaste? We have a webinar for that! Something for everyone this Thursday and Friday.

You may have noticed that a daily email from us did not deliver to your Inbox yesterday. We will now be sending these emails Monday, Wednesday and Friday, unless we need to notify you of immediate news. Continuing to deliver updates and resources in a timely manner remains a top priority for the Chamber.

Sincerely,

Paula Schmidt  
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce

*The Geneva Chamber of Commerce (GCOC) is providing these resources as a public service, but it is neither a legal interpretation nor a statement of Geneva Chamber of Commerce. Reference to any specific product or entity does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the GCOC. The views expressed by resources are their own and does not imply an endorsement of them or any entity they represent.*

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Financial Reporting for Your Paycheck Protection Loan**

Presented by blackbaud

May 7 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#)

There is a lot of uncertainty right now for tax-exempt organizations. That's why we're introducing a new live webinar series, Thriving in the New Normal: Resilience in the Finance Office, where our panel of experts will assess key areas important to organizations' resiliency and how finance leaders can use a change management approach to find a way forward for the organization's staff, budget, cash flow, and mission.

Join our panel of experts, Shawwn Storms, CPA with Agresta, Storms & O'Leary, Kate Mae from Paycor, and Blackbaud's own Heather Cooper Johnson and Laine Hendriks, as they break down reporting requirements for the Paycheck Protection Program, part of the CARES Act, and look at how to protect your staff and build a more resilient organization. They'll discuss: If you're able to secure a loan, how can you remain compliant? How do you protect and keep your staff in place? Where are you with cash flow overall? What do you need to act on the loan, and how do you produce the reports you need once secured?

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Ask Burns Anything (ABA)**

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 7 @ 10:30 am

Register [HERE](#)

Join us for a ZOOM meeting for a Q & A with City of Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns. Space is limited and registration is required.

**WEBINAR (free) *Rescheduled from earlier date***

**Worker's Compensation Emergency Rule Changes Informational Webinar**

Hosted by Fox Valley Chambers

May 8 @ 9 am

Register [HERE](#)

The emergency rule attempted to establish a rebuttable presumption that COVID-19 conditions in employees of essential businesses are work related and shifting the burden of proof to the employer. The rule was withdrawn after considerable objection and lawsuit. The IWCC is going back to the drawing board to consider other ways to address the COVID-19 Cases.

This webinar will be presented by Attorney George Klauke from the Klauke Law Group, LLC, who is an attorney for employers in worker compensation claims.

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Business Update with Illinois State Representative Dan Ugaste**

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 8 @ 11 am

Register [HERE](#)

**Please register TODAY by 3 pm.** Please send questions beforehand to Robyn ([rchione@genevachamber.com](mailto:rchione@genevachamber.com)). You will receive a Zoom link within 24 hours of registration.

**From Kane County Office of Community Reinvestment (on behalf of Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity)**

**COVID-19 Emergency Grant Assistance for Small Businesses in Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb Counties**

*NOTE: update includes ALL small businesses can apply, not just those deemed essential*  
The Kane County Office of Community Reinvestment is pleased to announce that it is now accepting grant applications from small businesses facing financial impacts from the COVID-19 emergency. The program, which is funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, aims to provide assistance to small businesses in order to avoid layoffs due to Illinois Executive Order 2020-10 (COVID-19 Stay-at Home Order).

Funds from this reimbursement-based program will be used to help eligible businesses mitigate layoffs and adhere to “social distancing” provisions established by state and federal public health authorities. It is not intended to duplicate other types of assistance available from federal, state, or local government. Individual awards under the program may range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per employer/physical location.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Program guidelines, application materials, and a “frequently asked questions” can be found [here](#). Questions should be emailed to [WIOAProgram@countyofkane.org](mailto:WIOAProgram@countyofkane.org). Businesses located outside Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb Counties are encouraged to request contact information for their county’s local workforce development office.

*The Office of Community Reinvestment’s Workforce Development Division provides services to ready the workforce for employment through federally-funded programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA provides the framework for a unique national workforce preparation and employment system designed to meet both the needs of the nation’s businesses and the needs of job seekers and those who want to further their careers. Our program serves the residents of Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, and is overseen by a local Workforce Development Board, which includes representatives from across the three-county area.*

**From U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Interesting read from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

**9 Experts on How to Communicate With Customers During Coronavirus**

Businesses that want to survive COVID-19 must maintain consistent and relevant communication with customers throughout the pandemic. Read the article [HERE](#).

**State-by-State Business Reopening Guidance**

The U.S. Chamber remains a strong advocate for bringing Americans back to work and life in a gradual process done safely, successfully, and sustainably in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This process, however, will be non-uniform and differ from region to region depending on the prevalence of COVID-19 and guidelines from local and state governments. From personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements to employee screening, the U.S. Chamber created the new interactive [State-by-State Business Reopening Guidance](#) map—

equipped with current stay-at-home orders, timelines, state profiles, and more critical information—to help you and your members track the differences and provide the latest guidance for America's employers.

[Click here](#) to view the U.S. Chamber's new State-by-State Business Reopening Guidance map.

### **From Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA)**

#### **Treasury Confirms Employers Will Not Be Penalized in PPP if an Employee Refuses to Return to Work**

Due to enhanced unemployment benefits, many restaurants are struggling to comply with Paycheck Protection Program rehiring requirements. The IRA and National Restaurant Association continue to urge the Treasury Department to make changes to PPP rules that provide much-needed benefits to restaurants.

Yesterday, the Treasury Department released new guidance on PPP loan forgiveness provisions. Citing their “de minimis” exemption authority, they advise that an employer will not be penalized with reduced PPP loan forgiveness if an employee rejects an offer to return to their job. See the latest FAQ answered below:

**40. Question:** Will a borrower’s PPP loan forgiveness amount (pursuant to section 1106 of the CARES Act and SBA’s implementing rules and guidance) be reduced if the borrower laid off an employee, offered to rehire the same employee, but the employee declined the offer?

**Answer:** No. As an exercise of the Administrator’s and the Secretary’s authority under Section 1106(d)(6) of the CARES Act to prescribe regulations granting de minimis exemptions from the Act’s limits on loan forgiveness, SBA and Treasury intend to issue an interim final rule excluding laid-off employees whom the borrower offered to rehire (for the same salary/wages and same number of hours) from the CARES Act’s loan forgiveness reduction calculation. The interim final rule will specify that, to qualify for this exception, the borrower must have made a good faith, written offer of rehire, and the employee’s rejection of that offer must be documented by the borrower. Employees and employers should be aware that employees who reject offers of re-employment may forfeit eligibility for continued unemployment compensation.

[Click here](#) to read the latest FAQ.

The IRA will continue to work with the National Restaurant Association and state restaurant association partners to obtain additional detailed guidance on other related PPP topics including: calculating FTEs during the covered period; using aggregate wages vs average wages in calculating payroll; treatment of unspent funds and forgiveness of eligible expenses from a PPP loan; and, addressing Treasury’s interpretation of payroll computation using cash or accrual basis.

### **SEND PICTURES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

Since we had to cancel Swedish Days, our social media manager, Kristen Cornelio is working on a special Swedish Days Social Media Post and would love for our members to share with us a photo of you or your team that we can include. Photos can be of you enjoying a past Swedish

Days or just a nice photo of you & your business. Please email Kristen your photo submissions by May 22 to [kristenhollyevents@gmail.com](mailto:kristenhollyevents@gmail.com).

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)?**

Are you providing PPE like masks or gloves? Do you have any resources you can share that are? With the requirement of wearing masks in public places, where social distancing of 6 ft. or more is not possible, beginning May 1, we would like to assemble a list to share with the members if they need anything. Please email Robyn ([rchione@genevachamber.com](mailto:rchione@genevachamber.com)) if you are able to assist.