

CBAI E-Newsletter

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Community Bankers
Association of Illinois
One Mission. Community Banks.

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LATEST NEWS

CBAI to Offer Two Comp Surveys in 2025! Directors' Survey Is Now Open!

CBAI's Directors' Compensation Survey is now open! **Complete it by February 28 to receive FREE results!** CBAI and Risk Strategies|ZALE Financial Group have teamed up with a new firm to offer the 2025 Compensation Surveys! Featuring a new format, you'll gain even more beneficial data and valuable resources geared specifically toward your community bank to give you a competitive edge in recruiting, retaining and rewarding the best. A nationally renowned and respected firm, Blanchard Consulting Group creates two separate surveys each year so each one takes less time and the information is organized more effectively. Participants receive Illinois-only data as well as national findings! **Look for the Salary & Cash Compensation Survey in May.** As always, the survey is sponsored by Risk Strategies|ZALE Financial Group, so results are FREE for participants! Email your completed survey to surveys@blanchardc.com or [utilize the secure upload](#).
[Complete the Survey »](#)

CFPB Withdraws CBAI-Opposed Non-Sufficient-Funds Proposal

CBAI applauds the CFPB withdrawing a proposed rule that would prohibit banks from charging fees for declined real-time transactions. On March 23, 2024, CBAI filed a comment letter with the CFPB regarding fees that the Bureau admits are "almost never charged for transactions that are declined in real-time." This led CBAI to ask the very logical question - Is this rulemaking the best use of the Bureau's resources? The obvious answer to that question was – NO!
[Read CBAI Comment Letter »](#)

Parrott Nominated as ICBA Board Secretary

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) recently announced its 2025-26 board of directors' nominees, setting the stage for the organization's next chapter in advancing the community banking industry. Among the board members is **Douglas E. Parrott**, president, CEO and chairman of State Bank of Toulon, who is nominated to serve as secretary. ICBA's current board will vote on the nominations March 11-14 in Nashville, Tenn., during ICBA LIVE 2025—the largest gathering of community banks in the world.
[See Full List of Nominees »](#)

Episode Nine: "Why I Did It" Podcast Featuring Charles Potts of ICBA

Charles Potts, ICBA EVP and chief innovation officer, discusses ICBA's emergence as a leader in developing innovation and bank technology resources for member banks in CBSC's latest "Why I Did It" podcast.
[View Episode Nine »](#)



President Trump Freezes Administrative Rulemaking

President Trump issued an executive order freezing new rulemakings. The executive order included the following directions for executive agencies and departments:

- Do not propose or issue any new rule until an agency head or designee from the new administration has the opportunity to review and approve the rule;
- Withdraw rules that have yet to be published in the Federal Register; and
- Consider postponing by 60 days any rules that are not yet effective.

The ICBA issued a national news release thanking President Trump for issuing this executive order. In the release, ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said pausing new regulations will provide the administration time to recalibrate the regulatory environment. CBAI would like to join the ICBA and thank President Trump for issuing this order and reigning in an administrative rules environment that has been out of control, especially in recent years.

[Read More »](#)

[See Executive Order »](#)

Community Banking Week is April 6-12, 2025! Request Your Free Marketing Kit!

April 6-12, 2025, is the 35th anniversary of Community Banking Week in Illinois! This year's theme is "Community Banks – Where Community Comes First." Celebrate the independent spirit that is the hallmark of locally-run banks. For your FREE digital marketing kit, contact [Cortni](#) today! Marketing resources, exclusive for CBAI member banks, include advertisements, lobby poster, social media graphic, PSAs, news release, radio scripts, letter to the editor and more!

FHFA Announces Final Rule on Liquidity for FHLBank System

The Federal Housing Finance Agency published a final rule it said would improve access to liquidity for the Federal Home Loan Bank System. The rule modifies FHLBank limits on the extension of certain forms of unsecured credit. Previously, an FHLBank's deposits held in member-provided interest-bearing deposit accounts counted toward a more restrictive limit set in the FHFA's existing capital requirements. Under this final rule, the FHFA said these deposits count toward a more flexible limit, allowing the FHLBanks to better manage and respond to the liquidity needs of their members. The rule also clarifies terms for the FHLBanks to determine limits on unsecured credit to counterparties and establishes an exception for certain amounts in operations and custodial accounts that the proposed rule would have counted toward the intra-day unsecured credit limit and clarifies that the limits are focused on liquidity activities.

[Read More »](#)

Last Chance to Participate in CBAI's Foundation for Community Banking Essay Contest Scholarship Program!

Time is running out! The deadline to submit essays is March 3, 2025! The CBAI Foundation for Community Banking provides \$21,000 in scholarship funds for top high school seniors statewide. One semi-finalist may be chosen from each of the CBAI groups via an essay-writing contest. A \$1,000 scholarship can be awarded to a student in 11 of CBAI's 12 groups along with \$500 to a second-place person in each group, which assures geographical uniformity of winners. The statewide winner will win \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education. And, as in previous years, the high school of the overall winner will receive \$500. Your bank's chance of sponsoring a winner is better than ever! It costs nothing for your bank to be involved and there are "no strings attached"! However, the banks reaping the greatest benefits are those that offer local scholarships in addition to the \$21,000 the Foundation has made available for awards statewide. For more information, please contact [Cortni](#).

FHLB Chicago: Where Is the Economy Headed in 2025? Banking on Connections Podcast

James Hotchkiss, FHLBank Chicago's in-house economist, shares what he's seeing in the market and economy in the early part of 2025 and into the coming months. Is there an expected path forward for interest rate cuts? Is the worst of inflation behind us? Will the housing market improve?

[Hear More in the New Episode »](#)

DeNovo Bill Introduced in House and Senate

Legislation was introduced to promote the creation of de novo community banks. The Promoting New Bank Formation Act—introduced by Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) and Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)—would direct regulators to phase in de novo bank capital standards and remove limitations on agricultural lending, among other needed changes.


[Read More »](#)

FDIC's Hill: "Crushing" Compliance Costs Hurt Community Banks

Overzealous and misguided supervision contributes to crushing compliance costs for community banks, according to FDIC Vice Chairman Travis Hill. Speaking in Washington, Hill said bank examiners should focus less on procedural checklists and instead address certain bank stability risks. He also said the FDIC needs a new direction and he expects that to begin on January 20. Hill added that it is worth revisiting the idea of a public-private organization that would establish standards for due diligence of

fintech vendors, which he said would reduce the need for each bank that partners with a fintech to conduct costly, time-consuming due diligence of its own.

[Read More »](#)



Serving everyone in our communities, in every way we can.

FHLBank Chicago is committed to providing products, solutions, and services that support our members' evolving business needs and help their communities thrive.

Visit fhlbc.com to learn more.

Register Now for CBAI's 2025 Capital Conference!

CBAI welcomes community bankers from across Illinois to join together in Springfield for our annual show-of-force gathering to advocate for the community banking profession in our state's capital. **CBAI's 2025 Capital Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025, and will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield, IL.** Please join us for a luncheon and legislative briefing as well as heading back to the Capitol to meet with your state senators and representatives with a focus on educating members of the General Assembly about the community banking profession and our legislative concerns. We will finish the day with a legislative reception. The fee is \$100 for your institution and covers all employees, directors and officers that you want to bring.

[Register Today »](#)

Registration is Open for CBAI's 43rd Annual Call on Washington!

CBAI's Call on Washington will be held on May 12-15, 2025. Please plan to join us for this event to LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Celebrating its 43rd year, CBAI bankers from across Illinois will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to call on their members of Congress and banking regulators to support issues of importance to Illinois community banks.

[Read More and Register »](#)

The .BANK Registry Increasing Prices January 27, 2025

The fTLD Registry, the .BANK and .INSURANCE Registry Operator, has announced that they will be increasing the price of all .BANK and .INSURANCE domain name registrations and renewals on January 27, 2025. To avoid paying the higher prices, renew your domain names before this date. You can also lock in even bigger savings by renewing your domain names for multiple years before the price increase. You will not lose any time remaining for your domain if you renew early. The new .BANK pricing effective January 27 will be \$1,149 for .BANK renewal, \$3,999 for .BANK premium names, and \$999 for .BANK transfers.

Registration Now Open for FHLB Chicago's 2025 Member Meetings

FHLBank Chicago's complimentary 2025 Member Meetings are coming to a city near you this spring! Attendees will have an exclusive opportunity to enhance their business competitiveness by leveraging industry-relevant insights from meetings hosted conveniently in the region they serve. Additionally, meetings offer a chance to connect with top-level management, dedicated sales directors from FHLBank Chicago, and local peers in the industry. Benefits include a first look at FHLBank Chicago products and solutions and the inside scoop of recommended product leveraging techniques; expert economic insights to help navigate the 2025 financial landscape; an opportunity to gain balance sheet best practice strategies; and the opportunity to network with industry peers from across Illinois and Wisconsin.

[Register Today »](#)

Free Summit on Partnering with CDFIs

Allies for Community Business (A4CB), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) are sponsoring a free working lunch on partnering for CRA credit. This event provides bankers with practical knowledge about how partnering with a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) such as A4CB or Greenwood Archer Capital can help your bank obtain CRA credit. This working lunch features an overview of how A4CB lends to start-ups and entrepreneurs including those with ITIN and creates partnerships with banks. It also showcases client success stories. The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) is also discussed as well as practical examples of how banks can get CRA credit by serving on the boards and committees of CDFIs. This event is targeted to CRA officers, and the presentations and discussions are practical and provide real-world examples. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at The Hatchery, located at 135 N. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL. Lunch will be provided and there is no cost to attend. The event is in-person only.

[Register Today »](#)

Americans Support Community Bank Policy Priorities

ICBA continued spreading the word about its latest polling results—which show Americans support community bank policy priorities in an infographic with new polling data showing support for the policies laid out in ICBA’s new “Repair, Reform, and Thrive” plan. The polling of U.S. adults conducted by Morning Consult found that 61% agree that federal agencies should address regulatory restrictions that limit the formation of new community banks; 67% say providing tax relief to lending institutions in rural communities—in line with the ICBA-advocated ACRE Act—would help preserve family farms; 55% agree that Congress should overturn small-business data collection and reporting rules; 62% say credit unions that operate like banks should have to pay taxes like banks; and 58% agree policymakers should raise the deposit insurance limit above \$250,000.

[See Infographic »](#)

CFPB Adjusts Asset Size Thresholds

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau issued three annual threshold adjustment final rules. The CFPB announced asset-size exemption thresholds for depository institutions under Regulation C; asset-size exemption thresholds for certain creditors under qualified mortgage and high-cost mortgage requirements under Regulation Z; and annual adjustments for inflation to the bureau’s civil penalty amounts, as required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act. The HMDA and TILA escrow adjustments are effective as of January 1. The civil penalty adjustments are effective on January 15.

[See Regulation C »](#)

[See Regulation Z »](#)

[See Civil Penalty Amounts »](#)



NEWS FROM SERVICES

New Innovation Column to Appear in CBAI's *Banknotes* Magazine

Inspired by the CBSC Innovation Committee, **Innovation Curation** is a new regular column that will appear in each issue of *Banknotes* beginning with the March 1, 2025, edition. As the name implies, it will sift through articles about innovation strategies, technologies and case studies to identify the most promising solutions for community banks. We hope that bankers will gain actionable insights from sharing their experiences with the innovation process.

Wolters Kluwer Introduces Technology to Address Borrower Due Diligence Risks

CBSC Preferred Provider Wolters Kluwer has launched an AI-powered technology to help lenders streamline lien search and due diligence processes when onboarding borrowers. **ilien Borrower Analytics** compiles critical debtor collateral assets used to secure commercial loan lien positions, along with public records data extracted via UCC search, helping manage onboarding risk.

[Read More »](#)

Ncontracts: A Guide to Emerging Risks in 2025

Regulatory concerns are top of mind for bankers, risk officers and other financial leaders nationwide. That's the main message in key surveys released over the past several months. Coupled with persistent challenges in cybersecurity, which has remained a top concern over the past several years, operational risks, and rising costs, financial institutions (FIs) face mounting pressure to navigate these complexities. Let's examine these findings more deeply and explore strategies for effectively managing these evolving risks in 2025 and beyond.

[Read More »](#)

CBIS: Up in the Air: The Truth Behind Fluctuating Cyber Insurance Price

The cyber insurance market has seen rapid growth in recent years, with quick and volatile market cycles that are more compressed than the slowly evolving cycles experienced across many other business lines. This volatility is largely due to the constantly changing threat landscape in the cyber insurance market; these external pressures make it a difficult market in which to operate. The following are six reasons why cyber insurance pricing is so unpredictable.

[Read More from CBIS »](#)

Wolters Kluwer: Strategies to Pledge Electronic Capital at the Federal Reserve Bank

To stay ahead in digital lending, liquidity is essential – but achieving its full potential requires careful planning. Without Federal Reserve certification or a clear strategy for managing electronic collateral, you may face risks and missed opportunities to optimize your assets. Join on the webinar *Strategies to Pledge Electronic Collateral to the Federal Reserve Bank*, on February 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. CT and gain actionable insights from industry experts Craig Focardi of Celent, DJ Steva of Vibrant Credit Union, Amy Pinson of Park National Bank, McKenzie Money of Zions Bancorporation, and Stephen Bradley of Wolters Kluwer.

[Register Today »](#)

CBSC Preferred Providers



**I DECIDED TO PARTNER
WITH SHAZAM.**

SHAZAM Core Services will help build your business, improve processes and gain efficiencies. We offer a flexible, end-to-end platform with configurable ancillary solutions.

MORE OF THE LATEST NEWS

Highlight Your Small Business Customer in *Banknotes* Magazine

Do you have a small business customer you would like to see featured in CBAI's *Banknotes* magazine? We want to spotlight your unique, local businesses with a special story! Contact [Valerie](#) today for more information. Check out our latest Small Business Spotlight from a recent edition of *Banknotes*, featuring Isaac's Coffee Shop, a customer of First National Bank in Arenzville!

[Read More »](#)

ICBA LIVE Discount Pricing Ends This Month

Final discount pricing for ICBA LIVE, the world's largest gathering of community bankers, ends on January 31. ICBA LIVE will take place March 11-14 at the iconic Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.

[Register Now »](#)

Identity Theft Awareness Week 2025 is January 27 – 31

The Federal Trade Commission and its partners will host free podcasts, webinars, Facebook Live interviews, and other events focused on avoiding and recovering from identity theft and spotting scams. They'll have information for everyone and added advice for servicemembers, older adults, young adults and business owners.

[Read More »](#)

Seeking a New Website Hosting Provider? CBAI Can Help!

CBAI has been providing web hosting services to banks for more than 25 years. CBAI's hosting services provide banks' websites with a complete compliant web hosting package, including a customized infrastructure to fully support all security requirements of .BANK, .INSURANCE and other fTLD hosting security parameters. Hosting services include a fully-managed Virtual Private Server (VPS) with AWS and dedicated static IP that keeps your website separate with its own partitioned server area, meaning that you are running your very own operating system (Linux), storage space and RAM to keep your site performance stable and

reliable. So, whether your site was created by a developing firm or a private developer, CBAI provides the tools and environment needed to ensure your site is secure and top performing.

[Learn More »](#)

2025 Holiday Closing Signs Now Available

The 2025 holiday closing signs are now available! You are able to download signs in English and Spanish. Both color and black and white versions are offered, as well.

[Download the Signs »](#)

Share Your Community Bank Happenings with CBAI!

Did you recently hire a new employee or award a promotion? Did a longtime employee celebrate a work anniversary or retire? Does your bank have a new community service project or event? We want to know about it! Tag CBAI in your social media post or send an email to [Valerie](#) with your bank's news. We want to include it on our social media pages and in the Member News section of *Banknotes* magazine!



CBAI EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

CBAI Announces Spring Group Meeting Dates for 2025

CBAI leaders and executive staff are visiting 11 locations on the 2025 Group Meeting Tour this spring. Bankers from nearly 200 banks participate in these enjoyable and informative events each year. Consisting of an informative, hot topic presentation, as well as association reports, Group Meetings provide an excellent opportunity to get the latest information on key banking issues and catch up with friends and peers. Patrick Dix, vice president of client and association engagement, SHAZAM, is this year's after-dinner speaker presenting *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Payments*. Artificial Intelligence is a topic almost every industry is trying to grapple with. The potential benefits and the uncomfortable challenges AI present make it hard to think about the topic strategically. In this after-dinner presentation, Dix shares ways AI is already in the marketplace, enhancing payments, authentication and the customer experience. Dix also looks down the road at the potential risks AI and its uses pose for banking in the future.

Group Meetings consist of an optional afternoon golf tournament at a local course and dinner meeting. Enjoy an afternoon at the links while taking advantage of networking opportunities with your peers. The Group 1 & 2 Meeting will follow a different format.

If the meeting in your designated group does not work with you or your staff's schedule, feel free to attend any of the other 10 meetings. Also, your bank may attend additional meetings to try out some new and fun places!

Visit [CBAI's Group Meeting webpage](#) to learn more and to view the schedule.

Training the Credit Analyst Level One & Level Two to be offered in Springfield

CBAI is pleased to offer **Training the Credit Analyst Level One on February 12 & 13, 2025**, and **Training the Credit Analyst Level Two on March 12 & 13, 2025**, at the CBAI Headquarters in Springfield. **Training the Credit Analyst Level One** is a course designed to address the needs of bank personnel with minimum experience in analyzing commercial and consumer loan requests or no formal training in accounting and credit analysis. This course begins by teaching the principles of accounting and assumptions utilized to prepare financial statements and tax returns. The course then progresses to a detailed review of financial statements including the balance sheet, income statement, statement of retained earnings, statement of cash flow and notes to the financial statements. It then focuses on analyzing the financial condition of commercial and industrial companies including companies that own commercial real estate for sale or lease. **Training the Credit Analyst Level Two** is a course designed to address the needs of credit analysts who successfully completed Training the Credit Analyst Level One or have a minimum of one to two years of experience as a credit analyst or commercial lender. This course reinforces the credit skills of current credit

analysts and commercial/consumer lenders in all aspects of credit analysis. **Jeffery Johnson**, president and founder of Bankers Insight Group, Atlanta, Georgia, leads both seminars.

[Register Today »](#)

CBAI's 2025 IRA Institute Scheduled for February 11-12 at the Northfield Center in Springfield

CBAI is pleased to offer the "2025 IRA Institute" scheduled for February 11-12, 2025, at the Northfield Center in Springfield. This two-day program begins with the basics and builds from there to an intermediate level. Individuals who attend IRA training events often find the training lacks the detail necessary to really grasp the rules. With a two-day format, this program allows you to take the time to get comfortable with the rules, to ask questions about "How?," "What if?," "Why?," and, just as importantly, "Why not?" While not attempting to make you a tax advisor, this program looks at the tax implications that apply to IRA contributions and IRA distributions. You'll gain the confidence to answer questions vs. when to suggest someone seek the advice of a tax professional.

[Register Today »](#)

CBAI's "C" Conference to Be Held February 19 in Springfield

CBAI's "C" Conference, scheduled for February 19, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, was developed for C-level community bankers. This exciting conference includes inspiring and educational general sessions, concurrent sessions, and an opportunity to network with your peers. CBAI's "C" Conference educational sessions were designed to benefit CEOs, CFOs, COOs and senior lenders. **A complimentary networking reception is being held on February 18th from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza bar on the second floor of the hotel.**

General session topics include *Asset/Liability Management in Today's Environment* with Deon Perryman, managing director, The Baker Group, Oklahoma City, OK, and ***Critical Information for Community Bank Executives*** with Greyson Tuck, attorney and consultant, Gerrish Smith Tuck, Memphis, TN. The conference also offers two concurrent education sessions and a roundtable networking session. You don't want to miss this event designed exclusively for the community banker!

[Register Today »](#)

CBAI Educational Calendar



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