



THE CIVIC FEDERATION
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

RESEARCH · INFORMATION · ACTION
SINCE 1894

2017



2017 CIVIC
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Photography by staff unless otherwise indicated

THE CIVIC FEDERATION’S MISSION

- To provide research, analysis and recommendations that:
- Champion efficient delivery of high-quality government services;
 - Promote sustainable tax policies and responsible long-term planning;
 - Improve government transparency and accountability; and
 - Educate and serve as a resource for policymakers, opinion leaders and the broader public.

THE CIVIC FEDERATION’S HISTORY

The Civic Federation was founded in 1894 by several of Chicago’s most prominent citizens, including Jane Addams, Bertha Honoré Palmer and Lyman J. Gage. They coalesced around the need to address deep concerns about the city’s economic, political and moral climate at the end of the 19th century. The Federation has since become a leading advocate for efficient delivery of public services and sustainable tax policies.

Today the work of the Federation continues to evolve as greater emphasis is placed on working with government officials to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the State of Illinois and local governments. The Civic Federation’s Institute for Illinois’ Fiscal Sustainability was launched in 2008 to provide Illinois policymakers, the media and the general public with timely and comprehensive analysis of the state budget and other fiscal proposals for the State of Illinois.

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The State of Illinois’ enactment of a comprehensive fiscal year 2018 budget in July 2017 gave taxpayers reason to breathe a short sigh of relief as Illinois finally joined the 49 other states in abiding by the most basic of financial tenets. However, following more than two years of unmanaged spending, Illinois’ challenges are far from over.

More than ever, the Civic Federation is called upon to provide critical analysis and recommendations as our governments at all levels face the results of decades of short-sighted policy decisions exacerbated by the State’s budget impasse. As we address these unprecedented challenges, the Federation continues to insist on telling taxpayers what they need to know rather than the simple answers they might want to hear. Building the political will to implement painful reforms may be difficult, but it will be necessary in order to secure our state’s financial future.

Despite the shaky financial landscape, Civic Federation members and staff find many reasons to be encouraged. The State’s archaic school funding formula was overhauled in 2017. The City of Chicago has more construction cranes in the air than ever before. Following publication of a recent Civic Federation report, Cook County public safety officials have

increased transparency of some of the County’s data. And we continue to raise awareness of the obvious need to consolidate or streamline Illinois’ nearly 7,000 units of local government.

The Federation’s influential work is made possible only by the support and dedication of our members and friends. We remain particularly grateful for the expertise of each member and the steady leadership of our officers and committee chairs as they steer our work throughout the year.

On behalf of the Civic Federation, thank you for your continued interest, support and guidance.

Kent A. Swanson
Chairman

Laurence J. Msall
President



CIVIC FEDERATION PRIORITY

Sustainable Tax and Fiscal Policies

The Civic Federation’s nonpartisan analyses and recommendations promote sustainable tax and fiscal policies. This work is a critical resource for Illinois governments as they address serious financial challenges such as persistent structural deficits and historically low credit ratings.



“We share a common goal with the Civic Federation in promoting policies that provide budget transparency and accountability and promote an environment where sound, principled financial decisions are made throughout Chicago. The independent analysis offered by the Civic Federation is something we continue to encourage as we pursue fiscally responsible policies that serve every neighborhood in Chicago.”

—Rahm Emanuel,
Chicago Mayor

A Coalition to Call for an End to the Budget Impasse

Following news in May that the Illinois General Assembly might attempt to pass a stopgap “budget” for the second year in a row, the Civic Federation convened a group of eight civic and social service organizations to call for the State to enact either a comprehensive, balanced budget or no budget at all. Because unmanaged piecemeal spending for large areas of government had continued over the previous two fiscal years, pressure on lawmakers to pass funding for other areas of government had been relieved, while the State’s backlog of bills ballooned to unprecedented levels and Illinois’ most vulnerable citizens were irreparably harmed. As part of the Coalition for a State Budget, representatives from the Better Government Association, Civic Federation, Forefront, Metropolitan Planning Council, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Union League Club of Chicago and Voices for Illinois Children came together to amplify this message, culminating in a press conference that generated local and national coverage along with acknowledgement from many lawmakers in Springfield.

Pondering the City of Chicago’s Fiscal Future

In April, the Civic Federation and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago cohosted the policy forum, “Chicago’s Fiscal Future: Growth or Insolvency?” Experts, practitioners and academics from around the country gathered to discuss the best and worst case scenarios for Chicago’s economic future. While recognizing the City’s serious challenges—financial and otherwise—expert panelists and guests saw many opportunities to stabilize Chicago’s finances and expressed optimism that with dedicated action the City could leverage its resources and talent to move past its current woes.

Annual Reports on Consumer Taxes and Estimated Property Values

The Civic Federation’s report on selected consumer taxes included rates and descriptions of taxes in place in the City of Chicago on sales, accommodations, leases, hotels, liquors, restaurants, soft drinks, tobacco and parking. As in past years, local government officials commented to Federation staff in 2017 on the helpfulness

of this report to their own work. The Federation’s annual report on the estimated full value of real property in Cook County found that the estimated total value of real estate in the County rose for the third year in a row after having fallen for six consecutive years prior.

Establishing a Task Force to Study Regional Competitiveness

In June the Civic Federation held its first meeting of the newly established Chicago Regional Competitiveness Task Force to evaluate the Chicago area’s strengths, weaknesses and where the region is an outlier for good or bad. The goal of the Task Force is to develop actionable policy recommendations on tax, fiscal, economic, quality-of-life and other issues in order to help the region support its diversified economy and compete globally and nationally for business and population.

Photo courtesy of City Colleges of Chicago.



“Mr. Msall and his Civic Federation colleagues are respected leaders that play a critical role guiding government institutions like City Colleges in the efficient and thoughtful use of taxpayer resources. They help ensure that City Colleges lives up to our promise to provide Chicagoans with quality, affordable education leading to upward mobility.”

—Juan Salgado,
*City Colleges of Chicago
Chancellor*

“Laurence Msall, president of the Civic Federation, a nonpartisan Chicago-based government-watchdog group, ... said there are really only a few ways for the state to solve its pension problems. Illinois would need a constitutional amendment that would allow the state to reduce the liability or a means of bringing in enough revenue to cover state operations and pay off pension debts over time.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 7-5-17



CIVIC FEDERATION PRIORITY

Responsible Long-Term Financial Planning

The Civic Federation works to focus attention on the long-term consequences of current fiscal policies. We urge all governments to use long-term planning to align financial capacity with essential service objectives.



“Local governments like ours continue to confront challenging fiscal times. As we work hard to meet our obligations to residents by operating efficiently and responsibly, we appreciate the insight, analysis and independent voice offered by the Civic Federation, which are of great assistance to us.”

—Toni Preckwinkle,
Cook County Board President

Updates on Chicago Finances from the City’s Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

At the 124th Annual Meeting of the Civic Federation Board of Directors, members heard from City of Chicago Treasurer Kurt Summers about the City’s financial challenges and opportunities. Echoing Federation research, Treasurer Summers said that Chicago’s challenges are solvable if officials come together to make the difficult decisions required to stabilize the City’s finances. Earlier in the year, City of Chicago CFO Carole Brown met with the Federation Board to discuss the challenges faced by the City and by the Chicago Public Schools in light of the then-ongoing State of Illinois budget impasse. She said that while the City and CPS were working to insulate themselves from Springfield’s budget-related dysfunction, the governments’ futures necessarily depended on action at the State level.

Discourse on Illinois Pension Challenges and Opportunities

In 2017 the Civic Federation continued to push for solutions to Illinois’ crippling pension crisis. To gain insight into challenges related to addressing \$130 billion in unfunded liabilities at the State level alone and into potential avenues for reform, Federation members and staff met with scholars, public officials and other experts throughout the year, including Former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker, John Marshall Law School Professor Ann Lousin and Teachers’ Retirement System Executive Director Dick Ingram.

International Exchanges on Best Governance Practices

In February, the Civic Federation hosted a WorldChicago delegation to discuss the Federation’s monitoring of government finances. The delegation, hosted through the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program, included auditors and journalists from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Territories. As part of the program, delegation members engaged with staff at the Federation and other Chicago institutions involved in public sector oversight to discuss best practices for promoting good governance and transparency. In May, the Federation

hosted an Indonesian fellow as part of a U.S. State Department and American Council of Young Political Leaders program. Nurul Komolasari works for the Indonesian government body responsible for ensuring accountability for entities that manage state finances. While at the Civic Federation she attended local government meetings, met with government officials, assisted with research and learned more about best practices in government finance, accountability and transparency.

Sharing Civic Federation Research with a Broad Audience

As fiscal dysfunction continues to cripple Illinois and its local governments, Civic Federation staff are increasingly asked to provide insight and analysis on the ongoing crises and to share recommendations for reform. The Federation presented to or moderated panels for many civic, government and nonprofit groups in 2017, including the League of Women Voters, City Club of Chicago, Chicago Municipal Analysts Society and NPR Illinois, among others.

“Illinois has the distinction of being the first state ever to operate without a budget for more than a year, according to Msall. ‘Unfortunately, the gimmicks that have worked in the recent past are not sufficient enough to make up the gaping hole that exists now,’ Msall said.”

CNN MONEY, 6-29-17



“The Civic Federation’s longstanding commitment to rigorous policy research and fiscal responsibility is second to none. As Chicago’s Treasurer, I have depended on the Civic Federation’s thorough analysis, and I hope that all of us—as government officials, fiduciaries and private citizens—look to Laurence Msall and the Civic Federation staff and board for guidance as we work toward a brighter fiscal future for our city and state.”

—Kurt Summers,
Chicago Treasurer



Civic Federation Vice President Sarah Wetmore testifying at a local government budget hearing.



CIVIC FEDERATION PRIORITY

High-Quality, Efficient Government Services



The Civic Federation champions the efficient delivery of high-quality government services. For many governments facing prolonged budgetary challenges, efficient delivery can require reevaluating long held assumptions as well as considering alternative methods for providing and funding critical services.



“The Civic Federation is searingly honest and rigorous in its annual review of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District’s budget and processes, which I appreciate and respect. Those of us in public office – and those we serve – are true beneficiaries of the Federation’s work.”

—Debra Shore,

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner

Photo courtesy of Commissioner Shore.

Providing a Signal Boost for Criminal Justice Transparency Reform

Throughout 2017, Civic Federation members and staff met with criminal justice advocacy groups and public officials to discuss various aspects of criminal justice governance and transparency. Special guest speakers included Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Chicago Police Board Lori Lightfoot and Illinois Justice Project Director Paula Wolff.

Later in the year, the Civic Federation published *The Impact of Cook County Bond Court on Jail Population: A Call for Increased Public Data and Analysis*. The report examined difficulties obtaining data related to the Cook County bond court and jail and also called on Cook County criminal justice officials to follow the practices of other large metropolitan jurisdictions in more fully disclosing critical criminal justice data. According to the report, increased transparency would enable the public to have better informed discussions about criminal justice and the effective use of taxpayer dollars, ultimately empowering taxpayers to hold government officials more accountable.

With varying degrees of success, advocacy groups had worked for years to shine a light on the lack of available criminal justice data, and the strong signal boost provided by the Federation’s report drew increased attention from the media and key public officials, spurring a modest increase in available data just weeks after publication.

“For the Chicago Public Schools to spend approximately \$70,000 a day in interest costs, that’s \$70,000 a day that doesn’t go to the benefit of students. It doesn’t go to fund the school lunch program. It doesn’t buy books. It doesn’t pay teachers’ salaries. It’s \$70,000 a day that they might as well have burned in Daley Plaza,” [Msall] said.”

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 6-27-17

“A prominent Chicago watchdog group [says] Cook County [public safety officials] are sitting on data that’s needed to evaluate how well the criminal justice system here is functioning—data it says is routinely available in other jurisdictions.”

CRAIN’S CHICAGO BUSINESS, 11-17-17

Pushing Forward on Local Government Consolidation

With nearly 7,000, Illinois has more units of local government than any other state. The multiplicity of local units of government, many of which are funded predominantly by property taxes, is often cited as a reason for high property tax rates in Illinois. In April, members of the Transform Illinois coalition, including Civic Federation staff, testified at a subject matter hearing of the Illinois Senate Government Reform Committee.

The Civic Federation’s Local Government Committee hosted public officials throughout the year to discuss consolidation initiatives. DuPage County Chairman Dan Cronin, who co-founded Transform Illinois, spoke in April to the committee about the importance and incremental nature of local government consolidation, commending the Federation for its ongoing public education efforts in that sphere. In September, the committee met with Illinois International Port District Chairman Michael K. Forde and Executive Director Clayton Harris III, who discussed House Bill 1797, which would forgive roughly \$15 million in Port District debt. Citing a lack of detailed economic development plan, the Civic Federation opposed the legislation, though it was later enacted by the Illinois General Assembly. The Civic Federation continues to call for the dissolution of the Port District and the consolidation of its port operations into the City of Chicago.



City of Chicago Chief Financial Officer
Carole Brown speaking to the Civic Federation
Board of Directors.



Illinois Justice Project Director Paula Wolff
discussing public safety data transparency with
Civic Federation members.



CIVIC FEDERATION

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Summary



The Civic Federation produces annual analyses and recommendations for the budgets of eight local governments, as well as a cycle of Illinois budget reports prepared by the Federation's Institute for Illinois' Fiscal Sustainability. The Federation is often the only independent organization that examines many of these governments' budgets in any detail – or at all – meaning its work is vital to helping citizens understand the governments' spending plans.

City of Chicago

The Civic Federation supported the proposed FY2018 City of Chicago budget of \$8.6 billion because it continued to work toward stabilizing the City's finances, put the four City pension funds on a path toward solvency and worked to incorporate short-term capital expenses into the operating budget rather than funding them through borrowing.

Chicago Public Schools

The Civic Federation opposed CPS' proposed \$5.7 billion budget because it did not do enough to divert the District from its dismal fiscal trajectory. Amid budget, liquidity, debt and pension funding crises, the FY2018 budget relied on nearly \$570 million in uncertain funding and on costly short-term borrowing for operations.

Cook County

With a projected \$200 million revenue loss for FY2018 due to the repeal of a sweetened beverage tax, the Civic Federation called on the Cook County Board of Commissioners and agency officials to identify sustainable ways to balance the budget without the expected funding. The Federation encouraged the County Board of Commissioners to approach the FY2018 budget with a long-term perspective and to not use the revenue crisis as an excuse to use gimmicks to close the FY2018 budget gap.

Chicago Transit Authority

The Civic Federation opposed CTA's proposed \$1.5 billion FY2018 budget because it relied on overly optimistic projections of restored funding from the State of Illinois and embarked on a dangerous path of borrowing for operational expenses. As an alternative path to generate additional revenue, balance the budget and maintain service levels, the Civic Federation recommended exploring increased fares on trains and express buses during high-demand periods.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

The Civic Federation supported the MWRD's Tentative FY2018 budget of \$1.1 billion because it continued to control operating expenses and maintained

financial safeguards, including substantial reserves, to cover shortfalls or financial emergencies.

City Colleges of Chicago

The Civic Federation supported the City Colleges' proposed FY2018 operating budget. The \$442.6 million budget was a prudent plan to begin to stabilize the District's finances following an unprecedented two-year State of Illinois budget impasse that severely impacted institutions of higher learning.

“The county must not use [the repeal of the sweetened beverage tax] as an excuse to use gimmicks and one-time revenue sources to balance the fiscal year 2018 budget,’ the Chicago Civic Federation research group told board members during hearings this week and in a published commentary.”

THE BOND BUYER, 11-1-17

Chicago Park District

The Civic Federation supported the Park District's FY2018 proposed budget of \$462.3 million because it reduced the District's reliance on prior year fund balance, implemented savings and efficiencies and reduced the size of the District's workforce. At the same time, the District planned to increase the level of funding to its pension plan.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

The Civic Federation supported the Forest Preserve District's proposed FY2018 budget of \$198.2 million because it employed reasonable fiscal practices and focused on the use of innovative measures such as cell tower placements and sponsorships to generate much-needed revenue and stabilize the Forest Preserves' financial position.



After Mayor Emanuel unveiled his 2018 budget, Civic Federation President Laurence Msall gave City Hall reporters the Federation's initial reaction.



Voices for Illinois Children President Tasha R. Green Cruzat and Civic Federation President Laurence Msall calling for an end to the two-year budget impasse at a press conference with representatives from other Illinois civic organizations.



Civic Federation President Laurence Msall and Illinois State Representative David Harris testifying before the Illinois House Cities & Villages Committee in support of House Bill 2575.

“The impasse is decimating social services agencies that help the most vulnerable citizens, including school children, the elderly and the mentally ill, according to a coalition of groups including the Civic Federation, which tracks the state’s finances.”

BLOOMBERG, 5-31-17



INSTITUTE FOR ILLINOIS’ FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Launched in 2008 with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Institute for Illinois’ Fiscal Sustainability informs the Illinois budget process with timely fiscal policy analysis and recommendations to State officials, the media and the public.

JANUARY

The State of Illinois opened calendar year 2017 eighteen months into a budget impasse. A report by the Office of the Illinois Comptroller estimated accrued interest penalties on overdue bills for the fiscal year to be more than \$700 million.

Leaders from the Institute and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law co-authored a guest column in *The State Journal-Register* detailing the impasse’s irreparable harm to Illinois’ reputation and most vulnerable citizens and calling for an end to the stalemate.

Illinois Senate President John Cullerton and Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno spoke to the Civic Federation Board of Directors about their proposed “grand bargain” compromise to end the impasse and thanked the Federation for continuing to push for an end to the crisis.

FEBRUARY

The Institute proposed a series of recommendations in its **FY2018 State Budget Roadmap** that would end the State’s fiscal crisis, establish a sustainable long-term financial plan and pay off Illinois’ unpaid bills. In the analysis, the Institute noted that none of the painful but necessary recommended spending cuts or increased revenues would go toward better or additional services for Illinoisans but would instead settle many billions of dollars in obligations already incurred.

Governor Rauner presented his recommended FY2018 budget to the Illinois General Assembly. Acknowledging a \$4.6 billion gap, the budget again offered Illinois lawmakers a choice between passing elements of the Governor’s Turnaround Agenda in exchange for unspecified revenue or granting the Governor broad authority to make cuts.

MARCH

Civic Federation President Laurence Msall testified at the Illinois House Cities & Villages Committee in support of House Bill 2575, which would create a Local Government Protection Authority to provide a forum to assist Illinois’ many financially distressed local governments. Later the same week, he testified at a joint hearing of the Senate Appropriations I and II committees about the corrosive effects of the ongoing budget impasse.

APRIL

Illinois lawmakers debated a plan to provide partial funding for higher education and human services, called the “lifeline” plan.

An Institute analysis found that the proposed funding would cover less than one-third of the human services shortfall and even less of the higher education shortfall.

MAY

In its **State of Illinois Recommended Operating and Capital Budgets Analysis**, the Institute did not support Governor Rauner’s recommended budget for FY2018 because it had an operating deficit of *at least* \$4.6 billion and presented insufficiently detailed plans for closing the gap or addressing the State’s massive backlog of bills. The report called on lawmakers to reject any piecemeal approach that impeded progress on enactment of a comprehensive plan.

The Coalition for a State Budget held a press conference in downtown Chicago to call for an end to the impasse. (For more, see pages 4 and 5 of this report).

The Illinois Senate approved a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The House did not take up the Senate plan before the end of the regular session. Both chambers passed a resolution to remain in continuous session.

JUNE

Pointing to the prolonged impasse, both Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s Investors Service lowered Illinois’ credit rating to just above non-investment grade. The State’s cash shortfall became so severe that areas that were supposed to be funded, such as public schools, were waiting months for State dollars.

JULY

With further downgrades looming, Illinois started FY2018 without a budget. Roadwork immediately ceased, and Illinois lost the ability to participate in inter-state lottery games.

On July 6, Illinois’ two-year budget impasse ended when both houses of the Illinois General Assembly overrode Governor Rauner’s veto to enact a \$36 billion plan. However, funding for elementary and secondary education was made contingent on passage of still-elusive school funding reform.

Institute staff were immediately approached by members of the media, other civic organizations and officials at all levels of government for analysis and briefings on the recently passed budget.

An Institute report found that the State’s higher education shortfall persisted despite the new budget.

AUGUST

Governor Rauner vetoed Senate Bill 1, which aimed to reform the State’s school funding formula. School districts throughout Illinois expressed doubt that they would be able to open their doors if State payments contingent on the reform were delayed. Later in the month, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a similar bill into law, enacting Illinois’ first reform to education funding in decades.

SEPTEMBER

Almost two months after Illinois enacted a budget, the State’s backlog of bills still stood at nearly \$15 billion.

An Institute blog post noted that while well-run states would not even be in the position to have to do so, Illinois’ plan to borrow up to \$6 billion to pay down a high-interest portion of its bills could save the State money in the long-term.

OCTOBER

The State completed the sale of \$6 billion in bonds to pay down part of the backlog of bills, which eventually resulted in a reduction of \$8.7 billion in the backlog. There was no detailed plan to address the remaining overdue bills.

The Civic Federation expressed conditional support for House Bill 3649, the Debt Transparency Act, as a good step toward providing increased oversight and better management of Illinois’ still-enormous backlog of unpaid bills. The legislation was later enacted.

NOVEMBER

Amid the ongoing pension crisis, the Institute published two reports detailing the critically underfunded status of Illinois’ five pension funds. Lawmakers, members of the media and public officials continued to turn to Institute research and updates for insight into the costs of the crisis.

DECEMBER

Institute updates drew attention to the fact that Illinois has not had a major capital program since 2009. To discuss the State’s infrastructure needs and significant backlog of deferred maintenance, Civic Federation members and staff met with representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner addressing the Civic Federation Board of Directors.



Illinois Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno and Illinois Senate President John Cullerton presenting their proposed “grand bargain” compromise to the Federation’s Board of Directors.

“Several days ago [the Civic Federation] put out a report on just what it will take to get Illinois out of its current fiscal mess. We find it jaw-dropping.”

THE PADUCAH SUN, 2-16-17

2017 ANNUAL CIVIC AWARDS LUNCHEON

HONORING ILENE S. GORDON
AND PNC

The Annual Civic Awards Luncheon, now in its 35th year, recognizes civic leadership in Chicago. Named for the Federation's founding members, the Lyman J. Gage Award and the Addams-Palmer Award recognize the outstanding civic contributions of Chicago individuals and institutions.

The 2017 Civic Awards Luncheon honored **Ilene S. Gordon**, Chief Executive Officer, Ingredion, with the **Lyman J. Gage Award for Outstanding Civic Contribution by a Chicagoan**. Ms. Gordon's trailblazing leadership was recognized as a critical part of the region's business, civic and charitable fabric, paving the way for the next generation of corporate and philanthropic leaders. In addition to her many accomplishments, she was honored for her commitment to diversity in the workplace and for empowering young women through opportunities in STEM education.

PNC received the **Addams-Palmer Award for Exemplary Civic Involvement by a Chicago Institution** for its focus on long-term investments, charitable giving and volunteerism in the areas of early childhood education, support for women and girls and economic development, among others. **Scott C. Swanson**, President, PNC Bank, Illinois, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

On Monday, June 26, hundreds of Illinois business, civic and government leaders gathered at the Hilton Chicago to celebrate the civic achievements of both honorees. The Civic Federation greatly appreciates the leadership of event co-chairs **John A. Canning, David R. Casper, Lester Crown, Andrew J. McKenna, Michael J. Sacks** and **Maurice Smith**, as well as the generous support of all who attended.

(Above, Left)
Scott C. Swanson, President,
PNC Bank, Illinois, accepting the 2017
Addams-Palmer Award for Exemplary Civic
Involvement on behalf of PNC.

(Above, Right)
Attendees at the 2017 Annual Civic
Awards Luncheon.

Ilene S. Gordon accepting the 2017
Lyman J. Gage Award for Outstanding Civic
Contribution by a Chicagoan.

(Top Left)
MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore
and Robin Brown.

(Bottom Left)
Luncheon co-chair Maurice Smith
welcoming guests.

(Top Right)
Manuel Sanchez and luncheon
co-chair Lester Crown.

(Left)
Back row: Civic Federation Chairman
Kent A. Swanson, luncheon co-chair
Lester Crown, luncheon co-chair
Andrew J. McKenna, luncheon co-chair
Maurice Smith, Michael H. Moskow,
Civic Federation President Laurence Msall.
Front row: luncheon co-chair
David R. Casper, Ilene S. Gordon,
Scott C. Swanson, luncheon
co-chair John Canning.



Arnold Randall, General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, accepting the 2017 Motorola Solutions Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award.

26TH ANNUAL
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by the Motorola Solutions Foundation and the Civic Federation, the Excellence in Public Service Award annually recognizes a non-elected government official who has had an extraordinary impact on the quality of government services in the City of Chicago, Cook County and the State of Illinois.

On December 7, 2017, the Motorola Solutions Foundation and the Civic Federation honored the outstanding public service of **Arnold Randall**, General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Business, civic and government leaders from across the State of Illinois and Chicago region attended the awards breakfast at the Palmer House Hilton Grand Ballroom to recognize Mr. Randall's outstanding public service accomplishments.

Following brief remarks from Civic Federation President Laurence Msall and Chairman Kent Swanson, **Illinois Senator Heather Steans** gave the salutation address highlighting the importance of public service in Illinois. **Manuel Cuevas Trisan**, Corporate Vice President for Motorola Solutions, introduced Mr. Randall, discussed his many civic accomplishments and presented the award. The presentation included a video tribute from local government officials and civic leaders.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Randall discussed the importance of vibrant outdoor spaces in an urban area and his passion for the mission of the District, which works to defend and restore those spaces. He also thanked members of his staff, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the Board of Commissioners without whom, he said, the Forest Preserves' recent strides would not have been possible.



(Right)
Arnold Randall with family, friends, supporters, government officials and representatives from the Civic Federation and Motorola Solutions Foundation.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended September 30, 2017

ASSETS	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 404,725
Investments	3,192,179
Accounts receivable	55,284
Grants receivable	350,000
Trustee pledges receivable	224,399
Prepaid expenses	64,337
Leasehold improvements and equipment	354,342
Total Assets	\$4,645,266

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 16,324
Accrued wages	92,610
Accrued vacation	30,468
Deferred revenue	26,000
Deferred rent	446,766
Total Liabilities	\$612,168

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	
Undesignated	\$ 266,521
Board designated	3,192,178
Temporarily Restricted	574,399
Total Net Assets	4,033,098
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,645,266



Manuel Cuevas Trisan of Motorola Solutions introducing Arnold Randall as the recipient of the 2017 Motorola Solutions Excellence in Public Service Award.



Cook County Clerk David Orr and Civic Federation Member Donald Franklin.



Civic Federation President Laurence Msall speaking with a reporter on camera about local government financial challenges.



Lester McKeever, Civic Federation President
Laurence Msall and Civic Federation Board
Member Susan McKeever.



Civic Federation Trustee Lester Crown,
John A. Canning and Civic Federation
Chairman Kent A. Swanson.



Steve McClure II, Civic Federation Board
Members Daniel C. Sprehe and
Monica Mueller, Steve McClure.

SUPPORT

Support and guidance from the Civic Federation’s Trustees, Board of Directors and Council is fundamental to our success. Our membership is made up of a diverse group of business and professional leaders from a wide range of Chicago area companies and institutions. Members give generously of their time and expertise in the planning and execution of our mission to provide a nonpartisan, objective perspective on state and local government tax and finance issues.

2018 CIVIC FEDERATION TRUSTEES

Robert J. Buford	Kenneth C. Griffin	Sarah Pang
David R. Casper	Adam Hoeflich	Michael J. Sacks
Lew Collens	Daniel P. Kearney	Maurice Smith
Robert W. Crawford, Jr.	Michael L. Keiser	Harrison I. Steans
Lester Crown	Frederick A. Krehbiel	Frederick H. Waddell
Harve A. Ferrill	Paul La Schiazza	

2018 CIVIC FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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