

**State Leadership Idea Exchange Council Opening Session &
State President / President-Elect Information Exchange Submission Form**

Note: Presentations are designed to share ideas and initiatives that can be used and implemented by other state associations. Please keep presentations to five minutes or less. Designated SLIEC staff will time the presentations in one-minute increments to allow presenters to manage their time.

Contact Information

Presenter Name and Title: Matt Difanis, President

State Association: Illinois REALTORS®

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Will you need a projector and screen? xx yes no

Are you using PowerPoint? xx yes no

If not, what format is your presentation? PPT and YouTube Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iud4lxqgTgI&t=15s>

Presentation materials must be sent to NAR by close of business, **Thursday, May 3, 2018.**

Will your presentation include sound? xx yes no

Will your presentation include video? xx yes no

Provide a detailed description of your presentation topic. Only detailed presentations aligned with the criteria will be considered for the Opening Session or the Information Exchange. The criteria of which the respective chairs and vice chairs of the forums (i.e. small state, medium state and large state) will consider is:

Submission Criteria:

- Originality
- Relevance
- Ability to inspire action
- Overall quality

Illinois – An Epicenter for Fair Housing Advocacy

Illinois was an epicenter for the struggle for fair housing policies during the Civil Rights Movement. With the 50th anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act, Illinois REALTORS® had the opportunity to educate its 47,000 members -- and the public -- on why equal housing opportunity matters and why REALTORS® are so passionate about it. The association took several important steps in a nearly yearlong effort to commemorate this landmark legislation.

Illinois REALTORS® commissioned a video that looks at the struggle to attain and the ultimate promise of Fair Housing in Illinois. The video, which was suggested by a member, features Illinois fair housing pioneers including Frank Williams of Beverly, Ill., and Loretta Alonzo of Romeoville, along with current fair housing leaders Vicky Silvano and Zeke Morris both of Chicago. It shares the story of the Dearborn REALTIST® Board, the first African American association for real estate professionals in the nation. The organization's current president, Courtney Jones, shares the challenges that remain for African American homeownership.

The video is designed to open the eyes of a generation of REALTORS® who have no direct connection to the fair housing struggle 50 years ago. As Morris tells viewers, we have to be “comfortable with being uncomfortable” as we move closer to the goal of equal opportunity for all.

The association has used the video and other events to share the importance of Fair Housing. They include:

- **Fair Housing Diversity Group Panel:** The association debuted the video to a standing ovation at the association's January 2018 Illinois REALTORS® Public Policy Meetings. Afterward, the conversation continued with a panel representing NAHREP, AAREA, WCR, YPN and the Realtists® who shared modern-day Fair Housing struggles.
- **Fair Housing Commemoration & Fair Housing Monument Dedication:** Illinois REALTORS® is anchoring a portion of Bicentennial Plaza, a REALTOR® Community Partnership, with a monument for the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. The event allowed the association to share the video with a broad audience of community leaders and elected officials, and served as an opportunity to dedicate a monument which features the REALTOR® logo and clasped hands symbolizing equal opportunity for all. As part of the commemoration, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner provided a proclamation declaring April 2018 Fair Housing Month in Illinois.
- **Education outreach:** Illinois REALTORS® is incorporating the video for use with pre-license and continuing education training on fair housing.
- **Local association outreach:** Local Illinois REALTOR® associations have been encouraged to apply for an NAR Diversity Grant and model the January fair housing diversity group panel presentation using the video.
- **Interpretive panel:** Illinois REALTORS® worked with historians from the National Park Service and the state to craft an interpretive panel which complements the Fair Housing Monument as part of the displays at Bicentennial Plaza.
- **Community forum:** A planned public forum in Springfield this August tying to Illinois' 200th anniversary will feature the video and a discussion on fair housing and the historical panels at Bicentennial Plaza.

About the Fair Housing Monument

- The four-ton granite monument is located at Illinois REALTORS® headquarters on the new Bicentennial Plaza. The pedestrian walkway officially opens in August 2018 and is dedicated to Abraham Lincoln’s vision for America as a place for equality opportunity for all. The plaza is a Signature Project of the state of Illinois Bicentennial in 2018 and its official dedication will take place August 26, 2018 – Illinois Constitution Day.
- The monument stands to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and as a permanent reminder about the importance of equal opportunity in fair housing and the work that remains to be done.

The combination of video, historical displays and forums focusing on fair housing have provided the association with outreach to help make sure members and the public alike understand the importance of the Fair Housing Act.

Note: There is a hardline internet connection provided for presenters only.

Reproduction of Materials

yes I have authority to, and do authorize the National Association to reproduce and provide a copy (copies) of the materials (PowerPoint presentations, audio/video files, documents, etc.) used in connection with my presentation at the President/President-Elect Idea Exchange to other local and state REALTOR® Associations for their internal use.

no The materials used in connection with my presentation at the aforementioned sessions may not be reproduced and shared with the local and state REALTOR® Associations.

E-mail completed form to Weeya Young at wyoung@realtors.org.