



A Message from the President

It has been a busy first month as the newly appointed President of the Chamber.

I first would like to thank everyone that made the Senior Social a very successful and fantastic event. Participation by both the seniors, and our chamber keeps growing every year. I have been getting nothing but praises and compliments on the event, and the people who organized it. I believe the success of the senior social leads the way for the great events the Chamber has coming in 2013.

I would also remind you, if you have not renewed your membership, please go to the website, download the form and send it in with your check.

It is going to be a great year and you wouldn't want to miss out!!!

Christopher J. DiBraccio
President
Brookfield Chamber of Commerce

Sokol Spirit Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 5th from 9:30am-1:30pm and again from 4pm-9pm and Saturday, April 6th from 9:30am-1:30pm. Come find some treasures and support Sokol Spirit! And don't forget to stop in at our Spirit Café for coffee, tea and homemade treats! Spirit Sokol is located at 3909 S. Prairie Avenue.



BROOKFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2013 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

Christopher DiBraccio
Brixie's
387-0050

First Vice President

Tom Milani
House Pros Home Inspections
373-5441

Second Vice President

Allen Goodcase
Future Electronic Systems
485-8940

Secretary

Amanda Robert-Curry
Thrivant Financial for Lutherans
630/598-2143

Treasurer

Amy Weinart
First National Bank of Brookfield
485-2770

Directors

Term Ending 2013

Deborah Barta (Chefsahoy) 312/560-3975
Betty LeClere (Betty's Flowers & Gifts) 485-3893

Term Ending 2014

Charles Hitzeman (Hitzeman Funeral Home) 485-2000
Patricia M. Weber (Le Grand Decor) 485-2204

Term Ending 2015

Phillip Richard (First National Bank of Brookfield) 485-2770
JoAnn D'Altorio (Brookfield Little League) 710-2724

Term Ending 2016

Ellen Frantzen (Joe's Saloon) 485-7042
Director Position Open

Member Spotlight



A Board of Director of the National Association of Realtors for the past five years, Dean Rouso has also served the real estate industry in 2010 and 2011 as President of Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED)—one of the nation's largest Multiple Listing Services— with more than 35,000 members. He is also the past President of the

Mainstreet Organization of REALTORS® (MORE), the sixth largest Realtor Association in the nation with more than 14,000 members.

Additional past roles include the board of directors for the LaGrange Business Association of which he also served as president in 2001. Rouso underwent intensive formal training in negotiation strategy and skills and has attended numerous continuing education courses in negotiations.

Over the past 14 years that Rouso has worked in Lagrange-Lagrange Park, he has very successfully negotiated more than \$250 million dollars of real estate for more than 800 buyers and sellers. Rouso takes a consultative approach in helping his team's seller and buyer clients assess their needs and then discuss the most effective and efficient options available toward meeting their goals. He and his clients then design a personalized game plan or strategy that will result in the most beneficial client property sale or purchase based on using the power of the "Team" approach.

Aside from staying on the cutting edge of the fast-moving real estate industry, Rouso focuses on designing innovative marketing plans for his seller's properties that yields them the greatest price the marketplace will offer. He uses his vast knowledge of the real estate marketplace to help families and individuals buy and sell homes or take care of the details of their relocation. Rouso has been awarded several accolades throughout his tenure as a top-selling REALTOR.

Accomplishments, awards and honors include:

- 2006–2001—#1 Associate in LaGrange-La-

Grange Park-Western Springs offices of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage for dollar volume, number of homes listed as well as homes sold

- 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 & 2001—Awarded Coldwell Banker's International President's Premier, which is the highest award possible ranking Dean Rouso in the top 1% of All 75,000 Coldwell Banker Associates WORLDWIDE

- 2002 & 2001—Awarded Illinois Association of REALTORS® President's Club Ruby Award, which is the highest award possible for Outstanding Realty Sales Performance in Illinois

- 1999 & 2000—President's Elite and #1 associate for number of Listings Taken, Listings Sold Homes Sold in Eastern Dupage-Western Cook Region, which includes LaGrange, Hinsdale-Ogden, Hinsdale in the Village, Lombard, Downers Grove & Elmhurst. Closed over 82 transactions in 2000 ranking number 5 in the company for number of properties Listed, Sold & Closed

- 1999 & 2000—Presented Realtor Association of Western Suburbs President's Award

- 2002—Certified Home Enhancement Specialist (Accredited Staging Professional-ASP)

- 2002—Certified Negotiation Specialist (CNS) Previews Property Specialist – Exclusive High-End Luxury Home Marketing Certification. Coldwell Banker's Previews marketing program offers specialized tools and diverse resources to cater to this special niche, in fact, no other firm sells more high-end properties than Coldwell Banker

- 2003—Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) Earned prestigious designation held by only 4% of all agents in the United States

- 2002—Earned Cendant Mobility's Relocation Certified Inventory Specialist (CMIS) and Certified Marketing Specialist (CMMS) Designations

- 2002—Coldwell Banker's Certified Home Marketing Specialist (CHMS) Designation. Amongst the 1st 15 Realtors 75,000 worldwide to receive this certification

- 1999—Graduate of the Illinois Association of Realtors Real Estate Institute (GRI)

- 1998—Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) from National Association of Realtors

Dates to Remember

March 14, 2013

Business Meeting, 12PM at Sawa's Old Warsaw

March 21, 2013

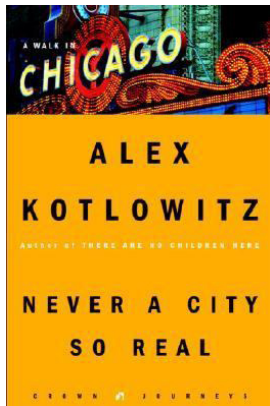
Board Meeting, 12PM at the Brookfield Library

March 28, 2013

After Hours, 5:30PM at Cantata Adult Life services

Author Event Finale!

An Evening with Alex Kotlowitz
Tuesday, March 5 @ 7pm
Hauser Jr. High School, Riverside, IL



The Brookfield and Riverside Public Libraries present the grand finale of the *On the Same Page* reading program. Join us for a special evening with Alex Kotlowitz, author of *Never a City So Real*. Bob Uphues, editor of *The Landmark* newspaper, will engage Mr. Kotlowitz in

a lively discussion of *Never a City So Real* and the culture and chaos that defines Chicago.

Attendees can submit questions for Mr. Kotlowitz in advance by emailing Brookfield@OnTheSamePage.info. Copies of *Never a City So Real* will be on sale for \$10 at the event. For more information, contact the Brookfield Public Library at 708-485-6917 or visit www.OnTheSamePage.info.

Thanks to the Brookfield and Riverside Friends of the Library groups and Hauser Jr. High School for helping make this event possible.



Holiday Walk Suggestions

Hello Chamber Members,
 Hope this finds you all well and enjoying profitable business!

I know that the Holiday Walk is still nine months away, but I am interested in seeing what kinds of changes we can make to the event this year to make it better for our members, their businesses and the community. After participating this past year and attending the few years before that, I started to wonder what we could do to get more return from the time and money we put into the event.

Hopefully you all have had the chance to participate in the event in the past, or at least have been able to attend, but now I want to know how we can shape this to improve our business presence with the hundreds of residents that come out every year.

Here are a few thoughts we are looking for your input on:

- 1) Does the event make sense as a "Walk" or should we make it more of a singular location?
- 2) Should we have Santa make visits to a few businesses rather than spending the afternoon in one place?
- 3) Can we do a scavenger hunt to participating businesses during the 2 weeks leading up to the event? Winners can have a special meet and greet with Santa.
- 4) How should we spend the money? We won't be doing reindeer anymore, but do we want to continue with the helicopter? The money could be used to have Santa taken from business to business on a sleigh.

Anything else you'd like to see, whether changes or traditions kept, all ideas will be considered. Once I get a chance to put together your ideas, I will schedule a meeting that anyone interested can attend.

Tait Jorgensen

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