



Kane County

KC Jobs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

LEWIS, ALLAN, Bates, Daugherty, Penesis, Strathmann, Young, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

Friday, September 12, 2025

10:30 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Lewis called today's meeting to order at 10:42 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog
REMOTE	Board Member Gary Daugherty Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member Cherryl Strathmann

Also present: Co. Bd. members Kious*, Molina*; Dev. Exec. Dir. VanKerkhoff and staff Toth; Transportation Chief Deputy Dir. Rickert; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public including Pres. of Valley Industrial Association Kathy Gilmore.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Lewis announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked if there were any objections to Committee Members Penesis, Strathmann, and Daugherty attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: August 15, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	David Young

5. Public Comment

Committee Member and Kane County resident David Young addressed trans-gender violence, domestic terrorism acts, and hate crimes happening in the United States. Young stated that these violent actions were all performed by members of the LGBTQ group. He stated that the Democratic Party embraces this group and the culture of evil. Young expressed his concerns on when the LGBTQ group will be denounced by Democratic leaders.

6. Jobs Committee Priorities**A. Ad-Hoc Task Force to Discuss Government Business Policy Improvements i.e., Cutting Red Tape**

Madam Chair Pierog stated that the Economic Development organization interviewed a number of companies throughout Kane County. The consolidated responses share that there are two issues with doing business in Illinois. Those include no jurisdiction of the corporate tax rate, and the cost and expediency of receiving a permit. She expressed concerns on how to allow tax incentives, the impact of tax incentives, and if this is something Kane County will support. Pierog recommended to the committee to conduct enough research and contact the Economic Development organization for input before making any decisions. There will be more information provided at next month's meeting.

B. Recognizing October as Manufacturing Month in Kane County

President of Valley Industrial Association and Greater Chicago Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (GCAMP), Kathy Gilmore, announced that Valley Industrial Association will be celebrating its 123rd year in business in November. With a growing staff in the past two years, the association is one of the top five sectors of importance for economic development in Illinois. The Valley Industrial Association supports manufacturers and other industrial service companies, as well as provide resources, best practices, education and support, and connections for growth to the incumbent workforce. Gilmore noted that over 50% GCAMP members are Kane County residents, with the partnership serving more than 2,500 students last year. A total of 23 manufacturing tours were also conducted last year, which resulted in outstanding recognitions of member companies at the Annual Spark Awards Event. The award for Outstanding Manufacturing Educator of the year went to Mark Williams from West Aurora High School, and the Outstanding Manufacturing Student of the year award went to Alejandro Vazquez also from West Aurora High School. Gilmore added that one of the primary tactics of attracting youth to manufacturing is by showing them what it looks like inside of a factory. In Kane County, there are two primary partnerships including the Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES), and the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System. Gilmore announced that Manufacturing Day (MFG) will be on Friday, October 3, 2025. This event encourages manufacturers to host tours and events to showcase the potential of modern manufacturing, attract skilled workers, and foster interest in manufacturing careers among students. Lastly, Gilmore stated that the Illinois Manufacturing Association (IMA) and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) partner for the Makers on the Move Bus Tour, which is a statewide initiative that travels across Illinois to promote manufacturing careers. The tour is an annual event during October's Manufacturing Month, featuring numerous stops at manufacturing facilities and educational institutions. Further discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	David Young
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan
AYE:	Anita Lewis, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann, and David Young
NAY:	Gary Daugherty

C. Kane County Economic Development Initiatives Staff Updates

Dev. Planner Toth announced that on Wednesday, September 17 a Champions of Workforce Kane County Celebration will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association in Elgin. This event will recognize the powerful results of collaboration, and highlight the great work being done by the Lighthouse Manufacturing Program. This initiative supports 52 manufacturers in driving operational improvements, strengthening their workforce, and building lasting resilience. The impacts of the program include 100% of participating companies who reported meaningful process improvements. A total of 556 jobs were retained, 326 jobs are projected to be created, and over 300 workers were impacted through training and placement opportunities. This event will also include networking, panel discussions, and opportunities to connect with the people behind these successes. Toth referenced an article from August 25, 2025 about Richardson Electronics' plans for a major expansion. The Re-Imagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois program will provide Richardson Electronics Ltd. with an estimated \$8.6M in tax credits over 20 years, while the company will retain 190 employees, and create 54 new jobs. Richards Electronics will build upon its existing alternative energy business to develop next-generation energy storage products that support electric grid stability. Lastly, Toth added that the company's battery energy storage system technology is being developed for industries such as manufacturing, health care, and critical. infrastructure operations.

7. Office of Community Reinvestment - Workforce Development Division

Chairman Lewis stated that the reports presented at the Jobs Committee and the Workforce Development are being re-evaluated. There will be more information provided at next month's meeting. She also announced that there will be a Blue Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, September 30, for the installation of the Community Job Kiosks, held at the Quad County Urban League in Aurora Illinois.

8. New Business

Committee Member Bates requested that there be a study of data centers in Illinois and Kane County. She believes it is important to find out what the risks and benefits are of data centers, and the impacts of energy and water demand will have on the county and in Illinois.

Committee Member Young suggested that Kane County representatives set up booths at manufacturing events like FabTech Expo or the Trade Show at McCormick Place to promote and highlight the benefits of working in Kane County. (Committee Member Young left at 11:45 a.m.)

9. Comments by Co-Chair

None.

10. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Mavis Bates

11. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

12. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Mavis Bates
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan

This meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary