

NCICG holds 30th annual dinner

PRINCETON — In the spirit of Thanksgiving, North Central Illinois Council of Governments celebrated its 30th year by recognizing seven former mayors/village presidents for their support of NCICG. Recognized at a dinner at Wise Guys Bar and Grill in Princeton Nov. 12 were Tim Shipp, president of Bureau; Don Bosnich Jr., president of DePue; Kevin Troglio, president of Mark; James A. Narczewski, mayor of Spring Valley; Larry L. Harber, mayor of Toluca; (in memoriam) James Kupec, mayor of Wenona; and John Gordon, president of Wyand.

The honorees (representing a combined 204 years of service as mayor/village president and trustee/alderman/councilman), received plaques recognizing their many years of service. Each achievement award was inscribed, "In grateful appreciation for dedicated service to the people of their respective city/village and their

support of the North Central Illinois Council of Governments."

Over the 30 years, NCICG wrote and administered a total of about 60 grants for a variety of projects in these seven communities. Total grant funds awarded equaled \$14,732,157. These grants resulted in a total of \$87,645,210 of public and private funds being invested in these communities. This figure does not include the peripheral benefits and expenditures that occur because of projects like this, like jobs created because of the grants.

The evening's program also included a presentation by Carol Kulek from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Energy/Recycling. Her presentation, titled, "Energy Efficiency Resources for Local Governments," outlined for the communities how the DCEO and NCICG will be working with Federal Recovery funds to help their communities

become more energy efficient. Kulek made the formal announcement that NCICG will be administering more than \$900,000 in Federal Recovery funds for the statewide Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant program. The funds will be granted to local governments in the region through a competitive application process.

Kulek was introduced by past NCICG Executive Director Doug McDermid, who gave a brief history of NCICG highlighting some of the major accomplishments.

NCICG, a not-for-profit regional planning agency has been providing planning, technical assistance, and grant writing services to counties, townships, and communities since 1979. NCICG works to strengthen the capacity of local governments in the North Central Illinois region, and to provide information about and access to state and federal programs through a program of intergovernmental cooperation.