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**Illinois Government Finance Professionals  
Pension Institute  
March 25, 2026  
Combined Speaker Bios**

**William R. Atwood, Executive Director, Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund**

Bill Atwood was retained as Executive Director of the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund (FPIF) in March of 2020. Among his earliest responsibilities were opening a checking account and drafting a budget for the FPIF. FPIF has since successfully consolidated \$7 billion in Article 4 pension assets, held by 295 different pension funds, and has prudently invested its portfolio.

Prior to joining FPIF Bill was Vice President at the Illinois Finance Authority, where he worked on the development of pension funding policies. In that role he worked closely with the Governor's Office and the Illinois Pension Consolidation Feasibility Task Force, where he helped draft SB1300, that created the FPIF.

From 2003 until 2018 Bill served as Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI), which has fiduciary responsibility for approximately \$23 billion in defined benefit and defined contribution retirement assets.

In 2014 Bill was named Outstanding Large Public Pension Fund Manager of the Year by Institutional Investor Magazine.

Bill has a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, and Master of Liberal Arts Degree from the University of Chicago. He lives in Downers Grove with his wife Reagen, his daughter Ainsley, and his son William.

**Brad Cole, Chief Executive Officer, Illinois Municipal League (IML)**

Brad Cole serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Municipal League (IML), based in Springfield, Illinois, which is the statewide association of all 1,294 cities, villages and towns. He began in this position in December 2014.

Cole served as Mayor of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, for two four-year terms, which followed one four-year term on the city council. He was first elected mayor at the age of 31. As the chief elected official, he set policy direction for the leading regional municipality that is also the home community to Southern Illinois University.

Cole is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a bachelor's degree in a double major of political science and biological sciences, and a master's degree in legal studies from the SIU School of Law. He originally hails from Macon, Illinois.

meetings, professional development programs, and events. She played a key role in implementing strategic initiatives that strengthened member engagement, resulting in exceptional recruiting and retention outcomes.

With nearly two decades of experience in the public sector, Beth's previous role was as Administrative Services Manager in the Finance Department of the City of Urbana, where she gained a deep understanding of local government operations. Beth also served as Treasurer and Regional Coordinator for the Downstate Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (DIGFOA). A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Beth remains an active member of IGFOA.

**Jessica Doogan, Principal, Lauterbach & Amen**

Jessica Doogan-Parlatore has over 15 years of experience working with Illinois pension funds and has been working with Lauterbach & Amen since 2014. She works closely with pension fund trustees and participants to ensure accuracy and reporting compliance with state and federal regulatory agencies.

Jessica is an experienced pension professional with extensive knowledge of the complex regulations and calculations involved in Article 3 and 4 pension funds. Over the course of her career, she has developed specialized expertise in benefit payments, service and disability calculations, and QILDROs. Jessica has worked closely with a diverse range of pension stakeholders including board trustees, active and retired members, and legal counsel. She is adept at clearly explaining complex pension concepts and providing guidance to ensure adherence to all compliance matters.

Jessica is dedicated to being a trusted resource for pension boards and members, easing administrative burdens through her meticulous understanding of policies and procedures. Her pension administration experience enables her to anticipate needs and solve problems proactively.

**Derek Flessner, Principal, Lauterbach & Amen**

Derek has over 12 years of professional accounting experience, specializing in the governmental and private sectors of public accounting. He has participated in numerous engagements including government financial statement compilations and reporting, corporate and nonprofit tax, and compliance.

Derek's experience in the accounting industry includes transitioning the general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and financial statement preparation. In addition, he has experience in the preparation and review of year-end work papers, Illinois Department of Insurance reports, Compliance Examinations, Municipal Compliance Reports, U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns (Form 1040) and Returns of Organizations Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990).

Derek serves as the main contact for many Article 3 and Article 4 pension boards, their pensioners and active members where he works closely with clients to navigate the pension world. He regularly attends pension fund meetings where he has presented financial statements, budget reports and other compliance reports as required by governmental agencies.

**Jason Franken, Foster & Foster**

Jason Franken is a consulting actuary and principal with Foster & Foster in Naperville, IL. Jason has over 28 years of experience consulting employers on a wide range of pension and postretirement welfare plan issues, including statutory funding requirements, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) accounting for pension and postretirement medical plans, plan administration, experience studies and plan design.

Mr. Franken is a frequent speaker at retirement conferences across the country. He has worked with retirement programs ranging in size from small and large public plans to large Taft-Hartley and Fortune 500 plans.

Jason is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries and is an Enrolled Actuary per ERISA. He earned a B.S. degree in actuarial science from the University of Iowa.

**Mark Nannini, Chief Financial Officer, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)**

Mark is the Chief Financial Officer for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, Oak Brook Illinois. IMRF is a \$60.9 billion pension fund that is funded at 96.9% actuarially as of 12/31/2025. In 1939 IMRF was established under the statues of the Illinois General Assembly. The fund was initiated by 5 employers with \$5,000 in assets. IMRF is an Agent Multiple Plan with 3,077 employers encompassing over 3,450 active plans.

Mark previously worked as Director of Finance/Treasurer for the City of Crystal Lake, Director of Finance City of Rolling Meadows, and Comptroller Village of Niles.

Mark has an M.B.A. in Finance and an Undergraduate Degree in Accounting.

**Current Activities:**

National Budget Reviewer for Government Finance Officers Association  
Member of the Technical Accounting Review committee IGFOA  
Past Member National GFOA Committee - Retirement & Benefits Administration  
Member of the National GFOA Education Advisory Council  
Board Member - Rolling Meadows Police Pension Fund

**Daniel W Ryan, Project Coordinator, Illinois Public Pension Fund Association (IPPPA)**

Daniel Ryan is retired from careers as a municipal finance director (Skokie) and a private union benefit administrator. He is a past-president of IGFOA. He is the author of several books on public safety pensions and has taught at Southern Illinois University, Lewis University, and the NIPSTA Fire Academy. As a part-time project manager for IPPFA, Dan makes presentations, writes newsletter and magazine articles, conducts research and analyzes legislative proposals.

**Jason Turner, Chief Investment Strategies & Head of Multi-Asset Strategy, Great Lakes Advisors**

Jason Turner is the Chief Investment Strategist of Great Lakes Advisors. He is a member of the firm's investment committee, authors market and economic commentary, regularly presents in the media and to professional conferences, and works with client portfolio managers to support institutional and private clients. As the Head of Multi-Asset Strategy, he is responsible for portfolio strategy, asset allocation, and for overseeing the firm's manager due diligence and selection efforts. He is also a member of the firm's Operating Committee and Management Committee.

Prior to joining Great Lakes in 2009, Jason served in various roles for Skyline Asset Management and Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting.

**Education and Professional Credentials**

- Industry Start: 2001

- North Central College, BA
- Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, MBA
- Yale School of Management- EDHEC Risk Institute , Certificate in Risk and Investment Management

**Richard White, Executive Director, Illinois Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund (IPOPIF)**

Richard White's experience spans a forty-three-year career substantially spent as a public servant with supervisory and executive level experience in law enforcement and public retirement systems.

In June 2020 Mr. White was named interim Executive Director of the Illinois Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund (IPOPIF). The Fund was created, in 2020, by the State of Illinois and will be responsible for the consolidation of the investment assets of the 357 Article 3 downstate and suburban police pension funds into a single statewide investment pool with an estimated \$8.5 billion in assets under management.

Richard earned a Master of Science degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development with an emphasis on Leadership in Police Organizations awarded from the University of San Francisco, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and an Associate of Arts Degree in Police Science from Farmingdale State College in New York. Mr. White has attended numerous professional development courses in both law enforcement and public pension administration.