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Greetings!

The Illinois Soybean Association is seeking qualified candidates to fill the district 17 board seat. District 17 includes the counties of Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, Randolph, and Washington.

The ISA board is comprised of 18 district directors and 6 at-large directors. Board members serve a three-year term and are eligible for three total terms. Eligibility to serve requires candidates to be Illinois residents of legal voting age who contribute to the soybean checkoff. Candidates must also be residents within the district and maintain eligibility during their term(s). The time a director devotes to the organization depends on their level of leadership and representation needs.

Please find below a document with answers to frequently asked questions we've encountered when seeking past candidates. If you are interested in serving or learning more about this opportunity after reading through the information provided, please contact Dustin Scott, director of operations. Dustin can be reached at (309) 846-3673 or dustin.scott@ilsoy.org.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Kindred".

Ron Kindred
Chairman, Illinois Soybean Association
(309) 663-7692

Illinois Soybean Board/Illinois Soybean Growers Prospective Director FAQ

What is the Illinois Soybean Board/Illinois Soybean Growers?

It is essentially one board with two functions, and together they operate under the umbrella name Illinois Soybean Association. Board members oversee both organizations:

- The **Illinois Soybean Board (ISB)**, through the soybean checkoff, funds market development, soybean production and profitability research, promotion, issues management and analysis, communications, and education. ISB is a Qualified State Soybean Board (QSSB), or a state soybean checkoff board authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (SPARC).
- The **Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG)** manages membership and advocacy efforts that support Illinois soybean grower interests in local areas, Springfield and Washington, D.C.

Who is eligible to serve on the Illinois Soybean Board/Illinois Soybean Growers?

To serve as a board director, a candidate must be an Illinois resident, of legal voting age, who contributes to the soybean checkoff. District directors must reside in the district they represent. At-Large directors can reside anywhere in the state of Illinois.

What is the basic make-up of the board?

The ISB/ISG board consists of 24 elected directors, 18 of whom represent specific geographical districts across Illinois, and six at-large directors who can reside anywhere in the state of Illinois. The organization strives for a board that reflects diverse farm types, experiences, and views of Illinois soybean growers.

What is the basic role that a director plays?

The purpose of the Illinois Soybean Board (ISB) and Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG) Board of Directors is to represent member's interests on public policy issues at the state and national levels and invest Illinois' share of the soybean checkoff program into research, market development, and education and communication programs to achieve the organization's mission. A few of a director's roles include:

- Determining the organization's strategic direction
- Hiring and evaluating the organization's chief executive officer
- Providing financial oversight, and safeguarding the fiduciary interests of the organization
- Ensuring legal and ethical integrity, and maintaining organizational accountability
- Informing farmers on the investment of their checkoff funds
- Forming policies to maximize the profitability of Illinois soybean farmers

What are the official responsibilities of a director on the ISB/ISG?

There are a variety of responsibilities associated with this important leadership opportunity. As an overview, major responsibilities include:

- Attend board meetings, functions, and participate in proceedings
- Be informed about the organization's mission, policies, and programs
- Actively participate in the formulation of goals, objectives, budgets, and program planning to effectively invest farmer checkoff funds
- Prepare for and participate in discussions and deliberations of the board
- Serve on a committee and actively participate in committee meetings

How long is a director's term?

A board member will serve a term of three years and is eligible to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms (9 years).

What is the time commitment once an individual is elected to serve on ISB/ISG?

The ISB/ISG holds four Board Meetings each calendar year. Each meeting takes place over two days. These meetings are held outside of soybean planting and harvest seasons in early February, mid-June, late July, and late November or early December.

Each board member also sits on one of three committees. These committees meet in conjunction with the Board Meetings, though additional committee meetings may be held throughout the year in person or virtually as deemed necessary by the committee chairman.

Are there other responsibilities and demands on my time if I serve as a director?

You may have the opportunity to attend national events such as meetings of the American Soybean Association and United Soybean Board, Commodity Classic, as well as meetings of other partner organizations like the Clean Fuels Alliance America, Soy Aquaculture Alliance, U.S. Meat Export Federation, North Central Soybean Research Program, and more. Attendance at these meetings/events is at the discretion of the board members.

Do board members receive an honorarium or stipend for serving?

No, board members receive no honorarium or stipend whatsoever. Dividends paid come in the form of leadership development, growth through travel and training, and networking with farmers, researchers, and industry leaders.

What about travel expenses - are these covered by the Board?

Yes, travel costs including meals, lodging, airfare, and mileage (not gas) are covered for approved Board activities and events. Board members complete and turn in expense reports for these events, including a log of mileage traveled, and these costs are then reimbursed. Hotel fees are handled on a case-by-case basis, but often ISB/ISG pays the fee and Board members provide a credit card for incidentals.

Why should I consider taking on a leadership role with the ISB/ISG?

Board members represent the state's growers, and shape strategy that will impact the soybean industry for years to come. These thoughtful, intentional leaders are the change agents building stronger markets and demand for Illinois growers and dependent industries. It's your chance to make a real difference and impact your own future profitability. What's more, serving on the Board opens doors to grow as an individual, develop leadership skills, and interact with farmers throughout the nation. Through optional international market studies, your learning and influence may even be global.

The Illinois Soybean Board (ISB) manages and invests Illinois soybean checkoff funds in research, promotion and education programs that enhance soybean production and use and support national and international market development. For more information, visit our website at www.ilsoy.org.