

# THE TELEGRAPH



*Serving the River Bend since 1836*

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## Area banker named chairman of Illinois Bankers Association

By Kathie Bassett  
*The Telegraph*

**C**ARROLLTON - Carrollton Bank CEO Tom Hough has been elected to serve as chairman of the Illinois Bankers Association for the 2009-2010 term.

"I'm proud to serve the Illinois Bankers Association as chairman and hope to provide the same sound guidance and direction to its membership that the organization has provided me throughout my 36 years in the banking industry," Hough said.

Family-owned Carrollton Bank is headquartered in Carrollton, with locations in Alton, Jerseyville, Springfield and St. Louis.

Hough has been an active IBA board member since 2003. He said he feels prepared to serve at the helm after first serving on the executive committee, and as treasurer, vice chairman and chairman-elect.

As chairman, Hough will provide a banker's perspective on regulatory issues, help set goals and objectives for the coming year, and represent Illinois banks in meetings with government and elected

officials in Springfield and Washington, D.C.

"It's a challenging time," he said. "With the economy being so tough, it affects a lot of businesses and people, and of course, banks, as well."

Foremost on Hough's mind is trying to find a path out of the current economic crisis.

Second, Hough wants to ensure that any new reforms proposed by President Obama's administration will continue to allow traditional banks to serve both their customers and communities well.

He cited the announcement last week of the administration's proposed creation of a separate Consumer Financial Protection Agency as an example of the kind of change that needs to be carefully looked at to determine whether it is in the best long-term interests of both customers and banks.

"Any new reforms need to not hinder the traditional bank from continuing to do what we have always done well - to do good work in the community and to help individual customers and businesses achieve their goals, decade after decade," Hough said.

"What is often lost in the shuffle is that all banks aren't like the ones on Wall Street."

Representing financial institutions of all sizes, IBA membership includes state and national commercial banks, savings banks and savings and loan associations, holding companies and organizations that serve the banking industry.

Founded in 1877, Carrollton Bank has been led by a member of Hough's family since the beginning. Under Hough's leadership, the bank has grown from \$7 million in assets in 1973 to \$773 million in assets today.

As a family-run business, Carrollton Bank continues a legacy built upon community values and customer-focused guiding principles.

"There are so many parallels between IBA and Carrollton Bank," Hough said. "Both are longtime organizations founded more than 100 years ago. They've been through the Great Depression, world wars, through many ups and downs."

Along with leading Carrollton Bank, Hough is a member of the executive committee for the University of Illinois' College of Business Dean's Advisory Board. He also is



*Carrollton Bank CEO Tom Hough*

chairman of the Investment Committee for the Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation in Godfrey and board member of the District 1 Foundation in Carrollton.

"Hopefully, I have some experience to bring that will help us weather this storm," Hough said. "The American people, Illinois citizens, local folks are all good people, so we'll get through this financial crisis, too."