

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize an outstanding community member for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

The Pana Labor Day Parade Committee has been chosen as our current Volunteers of the Quarter. The Parade Committee is comprised of volunteers who work parade day and at various fundraisers to fund the expenses of the parade, including the Cutest Baby Contest and the Friends of the Parade campaign. Denise Downs and her daughter, Cayla Beyers, work with the Pana School District to form a Labor Day Parade Court and select a Parade Queen. Each volunteer has assigned duties prior to and during parade day. To name a few, John Metzger works with local and regional high schools to attract marching bands for participation in the parade. Tom Latonis handles all of our printed press needs. Eric Jostes spearheads our floats and Michael and Bobi Jo Jostes troll all over town collecting funds from the cutest Baby Contest. The other volunteers keep the parade alignment and staging moving swiftly and smoothly, including Sara and Katie Coleman who keep the Shriners and politicians moving along. Dennis Ishmael helps the large commercial units move forward to join the parade. Many people do not know unless they read the parade details in the PNP that the horses and their riders gather south of town to show off their entries for a show and competition prior to joining the end of the parade route. Tenna Clements and Scott Loos organize this effort. And most importantly, Don Buerk mans the position at the front of the parade to get the forward units, which includes the law enforcement, fire and color guards moving to start the parade each year. Many of our members are involved in community groups, such as the Lions Club, or are involved and volunteer in their children's school-related organizations, like Pana Education Foundation, Sports Boosters, Music Boosters, Quarterback Club, and Sacred Heart School fundraisers and athletic coaching.

The parade will enter its 90th year next year, and has hosted some unique groups or entries, such as the Marching Illini and the Fire Department's World Trade Center 9/11 steel tributes and honorariums. Most of the members have been involved in the parade for three decades or more. We appreciate the support from local businesses with their donations and entries in the parade, as well as all of the people who come out every year to watch the parade.

The primary members of the organization include Joshua Ishmael, Chairman, John Metzger, Don Buerk, Denise Downs, Cayla Beyers, Cale Downs, Eric Jostes, Michael &

Bobi Jo Jostes, Sara Coleman, Katie Coleman, Dennis Ishmael, Tena Clements, Scott Loos and Tom Latonis.

In honor of the volunteer effort of the Pana Labor Day Parade Committee, Peoples Bank has made a monetary donation to them and a plaque with their name will be placed on display at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Waverly, Morrisonville, Palmyra, White Hall and Springfield. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.