

## **AWLI elects Victor president**

Bob Victor will head the bi-state Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) in 2009 as president of its 17-member board of directors.

A resident of Highland, Victor is research manager for the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority. He served as interim president of AWLI in 2008 and has served as a director since the organization's incorporation in 2003.

Other officers elected at AWLI's organization meeting on January 22 were Roy Ortiz of Hammond, vice-president; Dinah Ramirez of Chicago, secretary; Ken Czulno of Chicago, treasurer; and Mary Lu Gregor of Whiting, member-at-large. Ortiz is a long-time advocate for improvements to Wolf Lake and is a member of the Wolf Lake Conservation Project. He is recipient of Hammond's Volunteer Citizen 2007 award.

Ramirez is executive director of Healthy Southeast Chicago and a registered nurse. She served as AWLI's vice-president in 2008.

Czulno was re-elected treasurer in 2009. He is the finance director of the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

Gregor is the executive director of the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. A former teacher and office manager, she serves as executive administrator of the Whiting Robertsdale Community Improvement Corporation. She and Mike Johnson of Chicago were elected as directors at AWLI's annual membership meeting on January 15. At that meeting, members re-elected Dorothy Spencer of Chicago and James Taylor of Munster to second three-year terms.

Serving as ex officio and voting members are John Pope, city of Chicago; Rebecca Moss, Cook County Forest Preserve District; Keith Carey, Hammond Port Authority; Laura Perna, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Bob Robertson, Indiana Department of Natural Resources; George Van Til, Lake County, IN; and Christina Figueroa, Citizens Financial Bank.

Michael Boos, executive director, serves as a non-voting ex officio member.

Dave Dabertin is the final member of the 2009 board.

AWLI is a not-for-profit bi-state organization and land trust that seeks to improve Wolf Lake and its surrounding natural areas. Its board membership equally represents Illinois and Indiana.