



Unleashing the leadership potential of Illinois youth.

Hello My Friends,

I wanted to take a moment in the middle of a very hectic week to share some exciting news. After a long period of reflection and discussion, I have decided to step down as the Corporate Board President. I am not leaving ILS, nor am I resigning from The Board. I will continue to volunteer with and support ILS with every bit as much energy and enthusiasm as I ever have, because the ILS experience never really ends...

This is not a goodbye letter. Quite the opposite. This is the start of a new chapter for ILS – and a thrilling chapter at that. For the first time in over a decade, it is my honor to announce a new Illinois Leadership Seminars Corporate Board President. Actually, not just one president – but two: Angela Jos and Keith Donovan made a proposal at the September Board meeting for a Co-president model. Following many questions by my fellow Board members, the proposal was accepted and Angela and Keith have been unanimously voted in as the ILS Board Co-presidents.

I am intensely proud of all that we have accomplished, both as individual volunteers and as the team that is The Illinois Leadership Seminars. We are on solid financial footing, our recruitment numbers are on the rise, and we have a volunteer and donor base that is broader and stronger than it has ever been. The challenges we all face will be met -and overcome- with the same ideas and ideals we strive to impart to our participants: critical thought, passion for achieving goals, and listening to one another.

Please take a moment to offer your congratulations – and more importantly, your support – to Angela and Keith.

With the greatest of respect,

Hopper
ILS Past President



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Dear ILS Family,

Hello! I am Angela Jos, and I went through Seminar in 2007 as the student leader from East Leyden High School. In fact, Hopper was my Senior Coach, and I would remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank him for his many years of dedicated service and the lasting influence he has made on this organization and on me personally.

I recognized right away that ILS was going to make a huge impact on my life. I have continued to volunteer with the organization in many capacities including Junior Coach and Ops Team, and five years as Seminar Chair. My experience helping to plan Seminar led me to my professional career in corporate events and communications.

Now, my deep passion for youth leadership and leadership development has caused me to seek a Co-president position on the ILS Corporate Board. I am looking forward to partnering with other leaders within ILS to further develop our brand, public relations efforts, and communication processes. I am excited to collaborate closely with Keith and to serve an organization that has given me so much in this new way. I would not be the person and the leader I am today had I not attended Seminar, and it is my honor to be a part of bringing this valuable experience to others, continuing a ripple that can change the world.

Greetings! For those who may not know me, my name is Keith Donovan and I am excited to serve as one of the two new Co-presidents for Illinois Leadership Seminars. Having attended seminar as a high school sophomore back in 2000, I have worn many hats at ILS in the two decades which followed. Most recently, I've been behind the scenes helping with tech and audio / visual needs during seminar and in the front of house assisting with the Leadership in a Diverse World rotations and speaking on the panel. I've also been the person running the Build-a-boat activity for the last few years.

Outside of ILS, I serve as the Executive Director for a social justice retreat and education center and have my own experience sitting on the board of directors there. I am excited to bring to the position of Co-president my passion for leadership development, my organizational and management skills in the nonprofit world, and my core belief that ILS is a powerful organization poised to make waves in the future of society.

If you have been super-involved in ILS in the last few years, Angela and I are excited to work with you in this new capacity. If you have been away for a while, maybe this is the moment to reach out and get more involved once again. As Angela said, many thanks to Hopper for all he has done to "captain" this "leader ship" over the last decade-plus. We are truly afloat because of his passion, drive, and commitment. As we set sail on a new chapter as an organization, let's navigate these waters together.

Sincerely,
Angela Jos
Keith Donovan
ILS Co-presidents