

For Immediate Release

## **Citizens State Bank President and CEO Fritz Kuhlmeier to Retire April 2018**

### **Board of Directors Appoints Current Chief Financial Officer, Amy Baker, as Successor**

LENA, Ill. – October 6, 2017 – Citizens State Bank announces that after 28 years of dedicated service, Frederick “Fritz” Kuhlmeier will retire as bank President and CEO in April 2018. Kuhlmeier will continue to serve as President and CEO of First Lena Corporation, the bank’s holding company, and will remain a member of Citizens State Bank’s Board of Directors.

Under Kuhlmeier’s leadership, Citizens State Bank has prospered through strategic planning, acquisitions, and organic growth, expanding from \$50 Million to \$250 Million in total assets and from one location to three total branches in Lena, Stockton, and Freeport. Kuhlmeier has demonstrated a focus of community service and involvement by serving on boards of the Lena Economic Development Corporation, Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), The Highland Community College Foundation, and Northwest Illinois Community Development Corporation. He also has served as President of the Dakota Community School Board, and as Trustee of St. Paul Church and Rock City Fire Protection District.

He is a graduate of Dakota High School, earned his Associate of Science in Agriculture from Highland Community College and his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education from Illinois State University. He taught in the classroom until 1979 when he entered the banking industry joining First National Bank in Freeport, Illinois, as an Agricultural Loan Officer, where he worked until he was hired by Citizens State Bank in 1990 as the Senior Loan Officer. He was promoted to President and CEO of Citizens State Bank in 2000. Additionally, he graduated from The Graduate School of Banking, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Institute, and The National Agricultural Banking School.

Chairman of the Board, Craig Knaack, comments, “Fritz is the personification of Citizens State Bank. His leadership, service, and vision have guided this bank’s growth and success. He and the Board have planned for this succession and look forward to continued success and service for those we serve.”

The bank’s Board of Directors has appointed Amy Baker, currently the Chief Financial Officer at Citizens State Bank, to succeed Kuhlmeier as President and CEO. Baker, an Orangeville native, joined Citizens State Bank as their Controller and the Treasurer for First Lena Corporation in 2002 after completing her Associate of Science from Highland Community College and her Bachelor of Science in Accounting at Illinois State University. Before coming to Citizens State Bank, Amy worked in public accounting with Chicago’s Altschuler, Melvoin and Glasser LLP and as Finance Manager for APCOA/Standard Parking, Inc. Baker is a graduate of The Midwest School for Community Bankers, University of Wisconsin – Madison’s Graduate School of Banking, and Highland Community College’s Leadership Institute. She serves as President of the Orangeville Community School District Board of Education, member of the Collaborate Freeport steering committee, and board member for the Northwest Illinois Community Development Corporation.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



**Confident. Courteous. Close By.**

[WWW.CSBNOW.COM](http://WWW.CSBNOW.COM)



#### **Lena**

102 W. Main St. • Lena, IL 61048  
815-369-4524

#### **Stockton**

133 W. Front Ave. • Stockton, IL 61085  
815-947-3366

#### **Freeport**

1525 S. Forest Rd. • Freeport, IL 61032  
815-801-4524



For Immediate Release (Continued from Page 1)

## Citizens State Bank President and CEO Fritz Kuhlmeier to Retire April 2018

### Board of Directors Appoints Current Chief Financial Officer, Amy Baker, as Successor

Kuhlmeier states, "It has been an honor to lead this great community bank alongside board members, officers, and staff. Citizens State Bank has a history of over 135 years of commitment to our communities built on the standards of delivering quality customer service, integrity, and innovation as well as growth and high value to our shareholders. Amy is and has been an intricate part of Citizens State Bank's strategic development over the past 15 years. As Amy moves to full leadership, I am confident she and our team will continue to grow on our strong foundation of success to best serve our shareholders, customers, and community."

Baker comments, "I am extremely honored and humbled to be selected as Fritz's successor. He and I have worked very closely for the past 16 years and I don't expect that to change as he transitions to a different level of leadership for the bank. He has been such a profound mentor and educator and has guided us with strong innovation and unwavering commitment and integrity. I look forward to the future and continuing to deliver the high level of excellence our customers have come to expect."



Fritz Kuhlmeier  
President and CEO



Amy Baker  
Chief Financial Officer

Citizens State Bank is an independent, locally-owned community bank that has made our customers our top priority since the 1880's. With locations in Lena, Stockton, and Freeport, we offer a full range of financial services and the promise of always being confident, courteous, and close by. All business decisions are made locally by people who live and work where our customers do, allowing us the flexibility to customize our diverse products and services to meet our customers' specific needs. In addition to our personal and business banking, mortgage and consumer loans, trust and investment services, we are proud to be the largest commercial bank ag lender in northwest Illinois. Learn more online at [www.csbnow.com](http://www.csbnow.com).



Confident. Courteous. Close By.

[WWW.CSBNOW.COM](http://WWW.CSBNOW.COM)



#### Lena

102 W. Main St. • Lena, IL 61048  
815-369-4524

#### Stockton

133 W. Front Ave. • Stockton, IL 61085  
815-947-3366

#### Freeport

1525 S. Forest Rd. • Freeport, IL 61032  
815-801-4524

