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**Spring Meeting Notice**  
**Northeastern Illinois Chapter**  
**American Statistical Association**

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**DATE:** Thursday, MARCH 22, 2001, at 12:30 p.m. (Luncheon at 11:30 am)

**LOCATION:** Hilton Northbrook, 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062. Telephone: 847-480-7500.

**RESERVATIONS:** Advance reservations are required and must be received by 4 p.m., Thursday, MARCH 15. Cancellations cannot be accepted after the above date, and "no shows" will be billed. Registration is transferable except for the \$5 in membership dues (\$1 for students) that are included in the non-member fees.

FEES:	Luncheon & Sessions		Sessions Only		NIC
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Membership Only
Regular	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$5.00
Faculty (University)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$5.00
Faculty (High School)	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$13.00	\$18.00	\$5.00
Full-time Student	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00	no charge	\$1.00	\$1.00

Since membership is held on a calendar year basis, paying the non-member rate will make you a member for 2001.

**PAYMENT:** Make checks payable to: Northeastern Illinois Chapter, ASA

**REGISTRATION:** Please mail, e-mail or fax (no call-ins please), the registration form (below) to:

<b>Harold W. Frush</b>	
D-07B2 AP5N	Phone: (847) 937-5332
Abbott Laboratories	Fax: (847) 935-3320
100 Abbott Park Road	Email: harold.frush@add.ssw.abbott.com
Abbott Park, IL 60064-6070	

<b>PROGRAM:</b>	<b>11:00am – 11:30</b>	<b>Registration and Sign-In</b>
	<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Luncheon: Buffet including salad, choice of entrees, vegetables and dessert table.</b>
	<b>12:30 – 1:30</b>	<b>Dr. Jing Shyr : The Impact of Data Mining on Statistical Research</b>
	<b>1:30 – 1:50</b>	<b>Break</b>
	<b>1:50 – 2:50</b>	<b>Olga Jonasson : Evidence-Based Surgery and the Role of the American College of Surgeons</b>
	<b>2:50 – 3:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
	<b>3:00 – 4:00</b>	<b>Nick Panagakis : Election 2000</b>

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**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER MEETING REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name for meeting badge (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending:  Luncheon and sessions  Sessions only  
I will not be attending the meeting and am enclosing my  Membership Dues Only.

2001 NIC/ASA member prior to this registration?

(See FEES for details)  Yes  No

The above address & phone number are for:  Work  Home

Full-time student?  Yes  No

Send my newsletters/meeting notices via:  Email  U.S. mail

Tax Identification Number 52-1665956

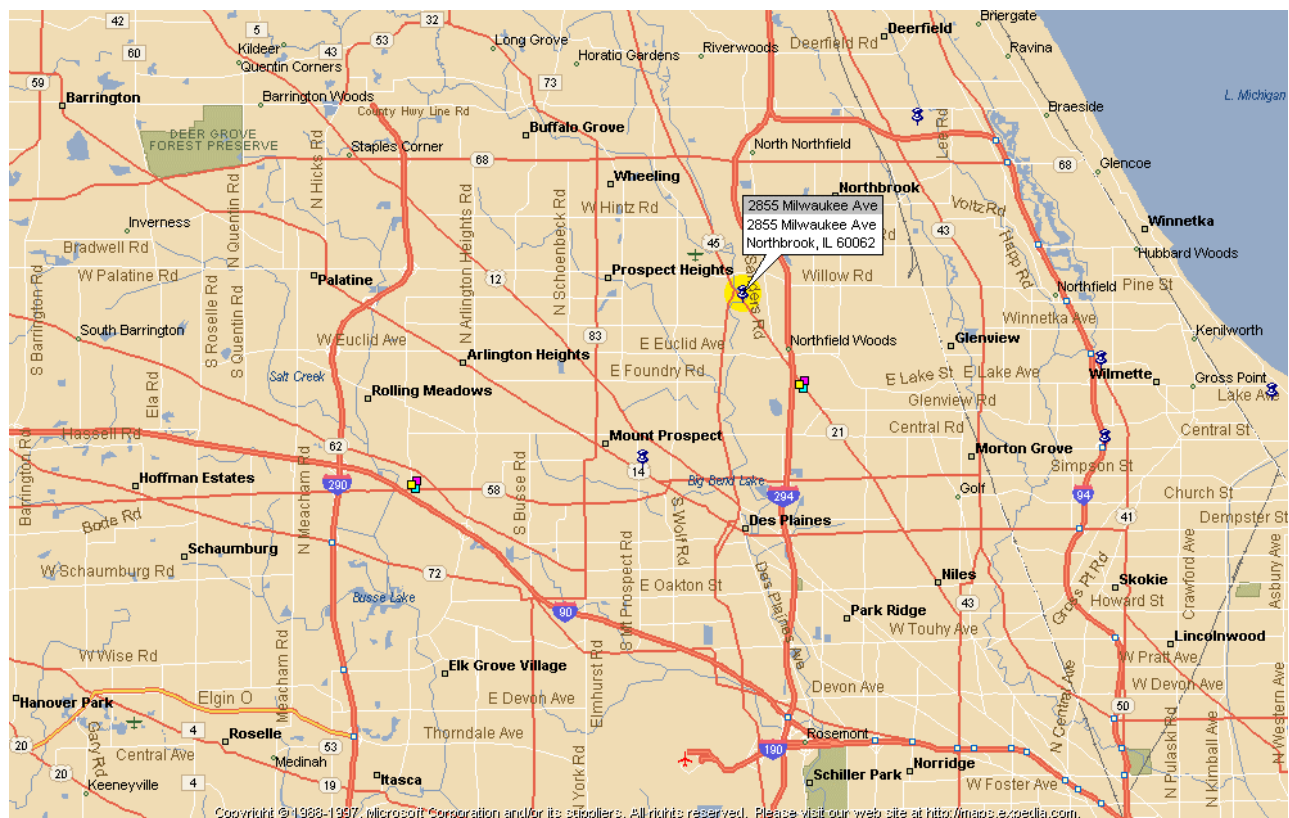
## ***Directions to the Hilton Northbrook***

**FROM DOWNTOWN CHICAGO: 90/94 West to O'Hare/Rockford, 294 North/Milwaukee, WI; exit at Willow Road. West on Willow Road to Milwaukee Ave., South on Milwaukee to Hotel.**

**FROM THE WEST: 90 East to 294 North; exit at Willow Road, West on Willow Road to Milwaukee Ave., South on Milwaukee to Hotel.**

**FROM THE NORTH: 94 East to 294 South; exit at Willow Road, West on Willow Road to Milwaukee Ave. South on Milwaukee to Hotel.**

**FROM THE SOUTH: 294 North; exit at Willow Road, West on Willow Road to Milwaukee Ave., South on Milwaukee to Hotel.**



## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring 2001 Meeting Program

The spring meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2000, from 12:30pm to 4:00pm, at the Hilton Northbrook. We hope you are as excited as we are about the line-up of speakers and topics for the meeting. Jing Shyr, Ph.D., Chief Statistician and Vice President of Development for SPSS, will speak about "The Impact of Data Mining on Statistical Research." I have known Dr. Shyr for several years, currently serving with her on an advisory committee for the Purdue University Department of Statistics. She presented this topic last year at Purdue and it was so well received that I asked her if she would present it to our Chapter.

Olga Jonasson, M.D., Director of Education and Surgical Services for the American College of Surgeons, will discuss "Evidence-Based Surgery and the Role of the American College of Surgeons." Dorothy Dunlop and I have collaborated with Dr. Jonasson on several projects, including two ongoing multi-center clinical trials on surgical repair for inguinal hernia and an upcoming trial on surgical treatments for Parkinson's disease. We also have conducted a highly regarded annual research methods course sponsored by the American College of Surgeons which aims to expose surgical investigators to the process of planning, writing and defending proposals on surgical clinical trials. Olga has a good perspective on how statisticians and physicians can collaborate effectively and will share her views on that during her talk.

Finally, the controversies of the 2000 National Election should be of interest to any statistician. Nick Panagakis, President of Market Shares Corporation and an expert in public polling, will speak on a variety of statistical issues pertaining to the recent election.

### ***The Impact of Data Mining on Statistical Research***

***Jing Shyr***  
***SPSS Inc.***

Data mining is a process of finding out interesting patterns in data. Data mining process includes identifying the objectives, extracting data from the database, preparing data for mining, selecting and building models for the data, and interpreting and deploying the results. The whole process is iterative and requires the cooperation of data mining analysts and business experts.

Statistical methods have played a major role in model building for Data Mining. One of the biggest challenges today in model building is the large size of a data set. Here the size can be of two dimensions, the number of attributes and the number of records. When the number of attributes is large, and especially when many of them are irrelevant to the objectives of the project, including all the attributes into the algorithms can degrade the performance in terms of accuracy and run-time efficiency. Moreover, it complicates the understanding and interpretation of the results. Similar challenges also apply when the number of records is large. Another big challenge is that model building is perceived to be very sophisticated and only usable by specialists.

To overcome the size challenge, the data reduction techniques need to be applied to raw data before any traditional statistics algorithm is applied, or traditional algorithms need to be revised to handle big dimensions. Automatic model selection methods are needed to ease the anxiety of sophistication. In this presentation, I will review current statistical methods for model building in data mining and then discuss various efficient algorithms, methods to enhance

existing algorithms and show an example of automatic model selection.

**Jing Shyr, Ph.D.** is Chief Statistician and Vice President of Development for SPSS. She manages analytic product lines, several of which are targeted for data mining. She is also involved in the company's strategic product planning. As the Chief Statistician for the company, she often gives presentations to the statistical community, major clients and international offices. Shyr has been with SPSS for 14 years. Prior to SPSS, she taught in the MBA program at Vanderbilt University for two years. She received her Ph.D. in Statistics from Purdue University in 1984.

### ***Evidence-Based Surgery And The Role Of The American College Of Surgeons***

***Olga Jonasson  
American College of Surgeons***

The principal driving force behind the need and desire for "evidence-based surgery", is patient safety and quality of surgical care. The "best practices" in delivering surgical care have rarely been documented by gathering of evidence, published, or taught. This gap in bringing new, and even established procedures to the patient has culminated in the development and dissemination of "Practice Guidelines." Surgical guidelines are often produced by non-surgeons and have the principal goal of cost reduction; they are almost never based on evidence. The surgical practice guidelines that exist, even if written by surgeons, are based largely on opinion of experts and rarely on data, and almost never on the outcomes of a controlled clinical trial.

Most of what surgeons do is based on common practices, rarely tested in the rigor of a controlled clinical trial. Even established surgical treatments, when examined in an objective and data-driven fashion, have been questioned and new treatment strategies developed that are more consistent with evidence of effectiveness and safety.

Substantive new drugs and devices are subject to scrutiny by the FDA; evidence of safety and effectiveness must be provided before the product is released for general application. Procedures, on the other hand, are not regulated. Often, new procedures using new or established technology are disseminated before adequate evaluation and testing of safety and efficacy has been accomplished and without due

concern for education and training of the practitioner or testing of competence.

The lack of evidence for what surgeons do, especially when new technology and procedures are introduced, may lead to dissemination of inappropriate, unsafe, or costly practices, or to failure of a worthwhile procedure to gain acceptance. Evidence can be derived in a number of ways, including analysis and summaries of existing literature and the organization of controlled clinical trials. Development of a clinical trial proposal is complex and time-consuming; funding is difficult to obtain. The College can facilitate the process of identifying areas needful of clinical trials, development of the trial, and seeking funding. The College can also oversee multi-institutional clinical trials, through existing or to-be-developed offices. A system for assessment of outcomes in a systematic way would aid in the development of multi-center trials.

The College is central to the development of clinical trials of surgical procedures and other treatment modalities. An office devoted to the identification of research questions and the development of a trial, including applications to granting agencies for funding, will serve all of the surgical specialties.

**Olga Jonasson, MD**, attended Northwestern University as an undergraduate and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Her residency in General Surgery at the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago was followed by research fellowships in Immunobiology and Transplantation at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1967, Dr. Jonasson joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at the University of Illinois and headed the Division of Transplantation. In 1977 she became Chief of Surgery at Cook County Hospital and in 1987 became the Robert M. Zollinger Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery, The Ohio State University. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Surgery. In 1993, Dr. Jonasson became the Director of Education and Surgical Services for the American College of Surgeons and resumed an appointment as Professor of Surgery at the University of Illinois and Adjunct Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University.

### ***Election 2000***

***Nick Panagakis  
Market Shares Corporation***

Nick Panagakis has been providing public polls to the media in Chicago and in media markets in surrounding states for 25 years. He has conducted pre-election phone polls for the Chicago Tribune and other political, business, and suburban issue polls since 1986. He also provides phone and exit polls for WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee. Before 1986, he handled phone and exit polls for WBBM-TV, which included the close Chicago mayoral elections in 1979 and 1983. The Indianapolis Star is a new client as of last year. In total, he has now covered about 160 elections in phone polls and about fifty in exit poll surveys.

A contribution he has made to the field of election polling is how undecided voters appear to decide in incumbent races. An early paper, Incumbent Races Closer Than They Appear, appears at <www.pollingreport.com> under Articles.

He is President of Market Shares Corporation in Mount Prospect, a firm which also conducts surveys for private interest groups such as Internet sales tax collection, gambling, public school, drinking and driving, as well as marketing research for clients such as Ameritech and Commonwealth Edison.

Panagakis, who was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, lives in Arlington Heights with his wife Judy and has two children and two grandchildren. He attended the University of Illinois in Chicago and Roosevelt University, and he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in business. He is a member of the American Marketing Association, the National Council on Public Polls (Board of Trustees member), the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and the City Club of Chicago.

He will discuss the presidential election last November, the performance of phone and exit polls, and voting equipment issues in Illinois and elsewhere.

~Domenic Reda

## President's Report

The year 2000 was definitely one to remember with the turn of the century, the new millennium (or is that this year?), the record snowfall in December, the closest Presidential race in history, and I wish I could say record breaking attendance at our Chapter meetings. Although attendance dropped last year after a fairly steady increasing trend over the past few years, the program was still quite successful. This year promises to produce another successful program as our chair of

the Program Committee and President-Elect, Domenic Reda, diligently puts the program together.

Some fresh faces have stepped forward to become more involved with the Chapter. NIC would like to extend a warm welcome to Harold Frush and Peggy Olson, who have assumed the duties of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. We would like to thank our previous Treasurer, Josephine Ribauda, who has decided to tie the knot and leave the country hopefully for bigger and better things.

Our webpage has a new webmaster. Thanks to Paul Cernohous for taking on this role and many thanks to Mike Carniello and Phil Pichotta for a successful launch and upkeep. (Directions for accessing the Chapter webpage are found in the webpage section of this newsletter.)

Thanks to Kathy Feaheny for her continuous efforts with arrangements. After the Spring meeting, Peter Yu has volunteered to take over this role for the remainder of the year.

The Chapter is grateful for the returning members of the Executive Committee. They are Linda Odom (Membership), Anita Ross (Newsletter Editor), Sam Hedayat (Awards and Recognition), Art Roth (Chapter Representative), and Carole Bernett (Community Activities).

As the year progresses, our Chapter is looking forward to having more members become involved with the Chapter. A great place to start is through the wonderful programs put together by our Community Activities Committee chaired by Carole Bernett. *All members of NIC will be kept posted of any planned activities for the year.* Please show your support both for the Chapter and for the profession by volunteering your services.

Enjoy this year's program.

~ Donna Kowalski

## Spring Meeting

The spring meeting will be held on March 22, 2001, from 12:30pm to 4:00pm, at the Hilton Northbrook (Allgauer's), 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 (Telephone: 847-480-7500).

Lunch will be a buffet including salad, choice of entrees, vegetables and dessert table. Anyone who has a special meal request should inform the treasurer

when registering for the meeting. I like to have all special meal requests about three days before the meeting.

~Kathy Feaheny

## Program Committee

This year we have a large and active Program Committee representing a broad cross-section of the Chapter membership: Robert Anderson, Carole Bernett, Joseph Chmiel, Theodora Cohen, Dorothy Dunlop, Kwan Hur, Donna Kowalski, Barbara Krasnicka, Linda Odom, Peggy Olson, Phil Pichotta, Domenic Reda, Anita Ross, Art Roth and Peter Yu. I want to thank my fellow committee members for all the advice and help they have provided in planning a very exciting line-up of topics and speakers.

The program committee met on November 30, 2000 to plan the program for this year. We decided to continue having three meetings each year. The spring and fall meetings will be held on a Thursday afternoon and each will feature three speakers. We hope to provide a variety of topics and aim to include one technical talk and one applied talk each time. The summer workshop will continue to be a full day session featuring a nationally recognized statistician presenting a technical topic.

For the spring meeting, we are testing some alterations in the meeting schedule based on suggestions from Chapter members. You will notice that the meeting time has been moved up ½ hour. Lunch will begin at 11:30 and the program will run from 12:30 to 4:00. Many Chapter members expressed a desire to have the meeting end earlier because of the afternoon rush hour. In addition, some members have mentioned there is not enough time to network at the meetings. So we have decided to have two breaks, increasing our total break time by 10 minutes. Please continue to provide us suggestions on how we can improve the meetings.

~Domenic Reda

## Awards and Recognition

I would like to acknowledge with many thanks, John Wiley, Publisher, for donating to our Chapter a copy of *Multiple Comparison Procedures*, written by Y. Hochberg and A.C. Tamhane. The Chapter purchased another copy from the publisher, and as is our usual practice, distributed them by random drawing to one student and one professional member of our Chapter. The lucky winners were Haiyun Zhu, a graduate student from UIC, and Paul Cernohaus, from Abbott Laboratories.

~Sam Hedayat

## Treasurer's Report

<b>BALANCE 1/1/2000</b>	<b>\$4824.33</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
1999 Fall Meeting/Memberships	\$51.00
2000 Spring Meeting/Memberships	\$1753.00
2000 Summer Workshop/Memberships	\$7903.46
2000 Fall Meeting/Memberships	\$2039.00
Donations	\$11.00
Advanced Pmnt. for 2001 Membership	\$60.00
Bank Interest	\$151.00
Total Income	\$11968.46
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
2000 Spring Meeting	\$2061.97
Purchase of U.S. Savings Bond	\$300.00
2000 Summer Workshop	\$6755.54
2000 Fall Meeting	\$2310.15
CAPS Workshop	\$72.55
Mailing Labels	\$35.64
Total Expenses	\$11535.85
<b>BALANCE 1/1/2001</b>	<b>\$5256.94</b>

~Harold Frush

## Company Profile

Quite a few members of our Chapter are employed at Abbott Laboratories, headquartered in Abbott Park, IL, approximately 30 miles north of downtown Chicago. Abbott Laboratories employs more than 5,000 scientists and other researchers to develop a wide range of pharmaceutical, nutritional, diagnostic and

other health-care products. Focus areas include Pediatrics, Men's Health, Women's Health, Diabetes, HIV, Respiratory Infections, Pain Management and Animal Health.

Abbott had a profitable FY 2000, reporting increased sales and earnings. In September 2000, Abbott received FDA approval for its new HIV drug Kaletra, and in December, they made a deal to acquire the pharmaceutical business of BASF, expected to be completed in early 2001.

Earlier in 2000, Abbott launched several new drugs including Depakote (for migraines), a once-daily formulation of Biaxin (an antibiotic), and Precedex (a sedative). Also launched was a new fully-automated blood glucose monitor, Sof-Tact (Soft-Sense in Europe), and two new neutraceuticals for infants, Similac with Iron and Isomil Soy Formula.

Abbott has been recognized for having an excellent workplace, and has received high ratings for diversity and good management by publications such as Fortune Magazine, Forbes, Business Week and Industry Week. The company is also active in providing aid and relief to people in the global community. The company has been working with other agencies to distribute supplies to the victims of the recent earthquake in El Salvador. Abbott France has sponsored a troupe of musicians to visit hospitalized children to help make a hospital stay less traumatic.

Abbott has an extensive web site with many details about their products, research endeavors, and financial statements. There is an educational web site for patients ([www.rxabbott.com](http://www.rxabbott.com)), addressing several topics including hypertension, AIDS, organ transplantation, and men's health. There is also a searchable job site accessible from their home page ([www.abbott.com](http://www.abbott.com)).

~Anita Ross

## NIC-ASA Executive Committee Meeting Summary

### **Audit of the Treasurer's Books**

The Chapter Bylaws state: "Each time a new Treasurer takes office, the President shall appoint at least two members who will audit the outgoing Treasurer's books." A general discussion of arranging for an audit

followed. Dorothy Dunlop noted that she has tried identifying two Chapter members to conduct the audit but has not been successful. It was proposed to change the Chapter Bylaws as follows (change in italics): "Each time a new Treasurer takes office, the President shall appoint at least two members *or one non-member* who will audit the outgoing Treasurer's books."

This change to the Chapter Bylaws was approved unanimously. Following this, Phil Pichotta and Dorothy Dunlop volunteered to conduct the audit by the time Josephine Ribaldo's term of office expires.

### **Change in Registration Fees**

Kathleen Feaheny noted that registration fees for the current meeting will not cover meeting expenses. She reminded the Executive Committee that this also occurred with the spring meeting. After discussion of several options, the following fee structure was proposed for future spring and fall Chapter meetings:

For college faculty, high school faculty and students, the current fee structure will be maintained. For others, fees will be raised \$10. The change in fee structure was approved unanimously.

### **Committee Reports and Activities**

**Membership.** Linda Odom reported that there were 155 members in the Chapter.

**Community Activities.** Carole Bernett has obtained an edited version of the video of the science fair that the Chapter supported. The final version was excellent. Also, the Chapter is sponsored a workshop for AP statistics teachers this on October 28, 2000. Ajit Tamhane will speak about design of experiments.

**Web Page.** Phil Pichotta introduced Paul Cernohous, who is the new Chapter Webmaster. There was a discussion of the desirability of having on-line registration for Chapter meetings and the summer workshop. It was suggested that the Chapter Bylaws be modified to create a new standing committee responsible for the Chapter website. This motion was passed unanimously.

**Newsletter.** Anita Ross was congratulated on the revisions she has made to the Chapter newsletter. She noted that she would like to add more information about Chapter members. Several suggestions were made: (a) Add a list of new Chapter members in each issue. (b) Feature different organizations that have members in the Chapter. (c) Look at Amstat News for

ideas. There is a column in Amstat News which features awards and promotions of ASA members. Obituaries are also included.

~Domenic Reda

## New Officers for 2001

Donna Kowalski is our Chapter President for 2001, and Dorothy Dunlop becomes Past President. Donna was President Elect and Program Chair last year, and Dorothy was (of course) President.

At our last Chapter meeting (October, 26, 2000), nominations were entered for the Chapter offices of President Elect (Domenic Reda), Secretary (Peggy Olson), and Treasurer (Harold Frush). The Chapter members present unanimously approved these nominees.

We are grateful to our past and present officers for all their service to our Chapter, and we are certain that the contributions of our new officers will result in another excellent year for our Chapter!

## Chapter Webpage

Don't forget to visit our Chapter web page at <http://homepage.interaccess.com/~mlcarn/nic.htm>. The page can also be accessed by following links found on the main ASA webpage ([www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).) Select *ASA Directories*, then *Chapter Links*, and then click on *Northeastern Illinois*.

The Chapter webpage has lots of information about our out Chapter including events, program information, a membership directory, and contact information for Chapter officers and committee members. You can also peruse PDF versions of current and past Chapter newsletters.

We have a new Webmaster. He is Paul Cernohous. Many thanks to Paul, and to our previous Webmasters, Phil Pichotta and Mike Carniello, for maintaining and updating our Chapter web page!

## Officers and Committee Chairs

### **PRESIDENT**

Donna Kowalski  
(847) 982-8533  
donna.l.kowalski@monsanto.com

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PROGRAM CHAIR**

Domenic Reda  
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reda@research.hines.med.va.gov

### **SECRETARY**

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### **TREASURER**

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### **PAST-PRESIDENT**

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### **CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE**

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**Statfax** is published three times a year (Spring, Summer, and Fall), by the Northeastern Illinois Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

**Statfax** welcomes letters and material for articles from its readers. Address correspondence to: The Editor, Statfax, c/o Anita Ross, Ross Consulting, 4554 Main St., Skokie, IL, 60076.

The Chapter’s purpose, as stated in its Constitution, is “to foster statistics and its applications and promote the interests of the statistical profession...”. Accordingly, diverse views are presented. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers or the policies of the Chapter.

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**Northeastern Illinois Chapter, ASA**  
**c/o Linda C. Odom, Membership Chair**  
**CORE / Evanston Northwestern Healthcare**  
**1000 Central Street, Suite 101**  
**Evanston, IL 60201**