discoverDOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

November 4, 2026

Chairman Steven Whritenour
Marion County
100 E Main St
Salem, IL, 62881

Dear Chairman Whritenour,

The ILLINOISouth Tourism dba Discover Downstate Illinois Bylaws require that our Administrative Board Members be appointed or reappointed by the County Board Chairmen representing the 22 counties and two municipalities we serve.

Discover Downstate Illinois works to market and promote tourism, events, and attractions throughout our region to increase visitation and strengthen local economies. Active and engaged board members are essential to the success of these efforts.

Your appointed representative will serve a two-year term from **January 2027 through January 2029**. We hold four board meetings annually, either at our office in Swansea or at designated locations throughout our region. Attendance and participation are expected and encouraged.

As we are preparing for the new term, I would like to share the attendance records of your current representatives:

- **Tabitha Meador:** 7 of 8 meetings attended
- **Ben Stratemeyer:** 6 of 8 meetings attended

Our Bylaws require members to attend at least 50% of scheduled board meetings to remain active. While we understand scheduling conflicts can arise, consistent attendance is important to ensure each county has an engaged representative who can contribute to our organization's efforts.

Appointment Criteria: Representatives should be government officials or individuals who represent the public interests of Marion County and have a substantial interest in promoting tourism throughout our region, particularly Marion County.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to strengthen tourism and our local economies.

Please submit your appointment or reappointment decision, along with an official county appointment letter, no later than December 9, 2026.

If you have questions, please contact me at (618) 257-1488 or dchapman@downstateil.org.

Sincerely,

Darlene Chapman

Darlene Chapman
President
Discover Downstate Illinois

cc: Tabitha Meador & Ben Stratemeyer