

September 23, 2026

Supporting Illinois Small Businesses

A neighborhood bar or restaurant is more than a place on a map. It is a small business built by people who know their customers, employ their neighbors and contribute to the character of their community. Across Illinois, these owners also face challenges that are difficult to navigate alone. That is why organizations like the Illinois Licensed Beverage Association (ILBA) matter.

The ILBA represents businesses that sell or serve beverage alcohol, including bars, restaurants and other licensed establishments. Its work extends from educating members on business practices to helping them navigate licensing questions, relationships with distributors and changes that affect the industry. It also brings the concerns of its members into conversations about state policy and regulation. For an owner focused on running a business every day, having a statewide organization that understands those issues can make a meaningful difference.

At Prairie State Gaming, supporting local businesses means listening to the people who operate them. Our partners are part of the communities we serve, and the issues they face reach well beyond video gaming. A change in regulation, a disruption in vendor service or an emerging question about cannabis laws can affect how an establishment plans and operates. ILBA gives owners and industry partners a place to discuss those topics, share information and learn from one another.

Our involvement with ILBA continues throughout the year. PSG employees serve in roles including district vice president, vice president, secretary and sergeant at arms. Through local chapters across the state, they help organize meetings, facilitate conversations and spread the word about ILBA's work. Those roles give our team another way to stay connected to the businesses we serve and to contribute time and effort to an organization dedicated to their success.

That connection was on display at ILBA's September 20–22, 2026, convention and trade show in Springfield. This year's Route 66 theme marked 100 years of the Mother Road—a fitting backdrop for a gathering of people whose businesses help give Illinois communities their identity. PSG joined members and industry partners at the convention, and our team hosted a pop-up dart tournament during the event.

A convention offers a chance to reconnect, but the value of ILBA's work carries into the rest of the year. Conversations about industry recognition, vendor challenges, licensing and video gaming regulations matter just as much at a local chapter meeting as they do at a statewide event. They help business owners stay informed and ensure their day-to-day experiences are part of the broader discussion.

We are proud to partner with ILBA and to see PSG employees take active roles in its chapters. Supporting local means showing up, hearing what business owners need and staying involved long after the convention ends.

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