



A message from Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White

I am pleased to present the 2007-2008 edition of the *Illinois Blue Book* — the state's official manual. The *Illinois Blue Book* is published biennially by the Secretary of State's office and is an invaluable reference and educational tool containing information about our state's history and government.

More than a century of our state's rich and storied history is encapsulated in the *Blue Books*. My office recently completed the extensive project of providing all *Illinois Blue Books*, dating back to 1900, online. Creating digital versions of past books enables Internet users to access all *Illinois Blue Books* for informational, educational and entertainment purposes. The books are available at www.idaillinois.org.

This edition of the *Blue Book* highlights some of the most distinctive destinations in Illinois. Chosen by Illinois citizens, the Seven Wonders of Illinois include five nature sites, one temple and a baseball stadium. These attractions represent the seven regions of Illinois: Chicago, Chicagoland, Northern, Central, Western, Southern and Southwestern. Although the photos are breathtaking, they pale in comparison to experiencing these destinations in person. I encourage every Illinois resident to visit one or all of these places in the near future.

As always, special thanks to the countless people who assisted in compiling the information for this edition. I hope you enjoy the 2007-2008 *Illinois Blue Book*.

Jesse White

JESSE WHITE
Illinois Secretary of State