

Biography of Gerald J. Roper

Gerald J. Roper is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, a business organization that serves more than 2,600 members in the six-county Northeastern Illinois region by providing a strong unified voice within government, and by providing a variety of programs, services and information that members need to successfully grow their businesses.

Roper became President and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce in 1993 following a nine-year career with the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. While at the Convention and Tourism Bureau he served as the head of marketing and sales before being elected the Bureau's President and CEO in 1988.

Roper has been the recipient of numerous awards that have served to recognize his service to the association, convention and tourism fields. Chief among these is the Kathy Osterman Industry Award in 1997 (presented annually by the Chicago Chapter of Meeting Planners International); the Harold Washington College Distinguished Business Leader Award in 1997; and the Roosevelt University Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 (presented by the University's Manfred Steinfeld School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.)

Roper is also active in a number of community, civic and industry organizations. He serves as chairman of the President's Advisory Council for Harold Washington College (City Colleges of Chicago); as well as serving on the Jones Academic High School Local School council. He is a member of the boards of the International Visitors Center of Chicago, Chicago Sister Cities International Program, Creating Pride, Visit Illinois; and is on the Executive Committee of the Manfred Steinfeld School of Hospitality & Tourism Management. He is active on a number of civic advisory committees and is currently serving as chairman of the Gateway Green Committee, a citywide business initiative that leads the effort to landscape all major approaches to Chicago and Chicago-area airports. Mr. Roper is an outspoken advocate for the aviation community serving as President and Spokesman of the Midwest Aviation Coalition, an organization dedicated to preserving Chicagoland's preeminence as the aviation capitol of the world. Mr. Roper also serves on Mayor Daley's Zoning Reform Commission, working to rewrite the zoning laws of Chicago to address the needs of residents and businesses in the 21st century.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, he and his wife Carol reside in the city of Chicago.