


 iwil

 Illinois women  
in leadership

*together we will*

## IWIL CALENDAR 2005

### JULY

**Date:** Thursday, July 21  
**Time:** 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Island Bay Yacht Club  
**Program:** IWIL Summer Social –  
 “Soaring to New  
 Heights...Come as You  
 Will Be in 2015”

### AUGUST

**Date:** Thursday, August 18  
**Time:** Luncheon (11:30 a.m.)  
**Location:** Inn at 835  
**Program:** “Soaring to New Heights  
 and Doing the Talking in  
 Springfield” with guest  
 speaker Pamela Furr, Hot  
 Talk 970 WMAV

### SEPTEMBER

**Date:** Thursday, September 15  
**Time:** Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)  
**Location:** Sangamo Club  
**Program:** “Soaring to New Heights  
 and Ending Up with  
 Cotton Candy, Greased  
 Pig Races, and Carnival  
 Rides” with guest  
 speaker Amy Bliefnick,  
 Illinois State Fair  
 manager

### NEW IN 2005!

#### LOOK FOR YOUR IWIL PROGRAM REGISTRATION FLYER IN THIS MAILING

In the interest of sending fewer e-mails to your already crowded inbox, we’re sending the IWIL program registration flyer in the same e-mail as the newsletter. Just print it out and mail it in! Or, find a link to the program registration online at [www.iwil.biz](http://www.iwil.biz).

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### “Soaring to New Heights”

Val Yazell, IWIL President

“Soaring to New Heights” is the theme I have chosen for the upcoming year. Although our organization is only one year old, a solid foundation has been set in place. As part of the organizational team, we felt it was important to keep some things the same for the first year while remaining open-ended to encourage growth and change. Kathleen’s guidance last year and the behind-the-scenes work of dedicated IWIL members allow me the opportunity to give liftoff to this dynamic organization.

“Soaring to New Heights” has special significance to me and I hope it will mean something special to you soon. I remember a time in my life that was total chaos. I felt a sense of disconnection not just from everyone else but from myself as well. I decided that I needed to get away and so I planned a trip to see my sister. As I took off in the plane, I felt all the anxiety slip away and before we reached the clouds, I looked at the ground and was struck by the orderliness of what I could see. The farm land was perfectly outlined, the roads and even the cars on them were flowing smoothly. I suddenly realized that if we can rise above or at least step outside of ourselves, the perspective changes. Your program chair this year, Kate Hein, has booked speakers who have soared to new heights either personally or professionally. Their messages will be of inspiration and encouragement.

#### A few of the growth areas you will notice include:

- All breakfast meetings will be held at the Sangamo Club
- All luncheon meetings will be held at the Inn at 835
- New “look” to the newsletter
- Secure Website
- Website addition for job postings

#### My vision for the year includes:

- Growing membership but also fixing an “eye” on retention
- Encouraging interaction between the board and membership
- Inspiring and supporting our membership by providing motivational speakers and applying a “personal touch”
- Maximizing productivity by implementing strategies to create a high-performing board
- Providing a comfortable and pleasant meeting location for the board and the membership

I encourage you all to take ownership of your organization. If you have a concern, please let a board member know...be a part of the solution and not part of the problem. You are all invited to board meetings at any time; the dates and location will be listed on our calendar on the Website.

I look forward to a wonderful year.

## SHARED MEETING LOCATIONS

### SUNRISE AT THE SANGAMO, LUNCH AT THE INN

Variety is the spice of life and now it can be the spice for Illinois Women in Leadership. This year, we will be meeting at two different locations. Oh no, you say. I can't remember where I put the car keys or what I ate last night, how can I remember where the meetings will be held? HAVE NO FEAR...your new board has already read your thoughts (remember we don't know where our car keys are either). We have created a little saying to help you remember. **"Sunrise at Sangamo; Lunch at the Inn."** If you know what time the meeting is (sorry we haven't figured a way yet to help there), you will know where to head. If it's sunrise, or at least that time of day, be at the Sangamo. If it's lunch, head to the Inn. See you there! We have faith!

## WILL THIS BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER? MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE JUNE 30

Say it's not so! Renewals for the 2005-2006 fiscal year of Illinois Women in Leadership were due June 30. As this newsletter is being sent July 1, everyone who is in the database from last year will receive it. If we have not received your renewal postmarked by June 30, your name will be dropped from the database. Please don't let this happen! You are an important part of the team and spirit that makes this such a diverse and strong organization. Contact Membership Chair **Susan Wilcockson** with any questions about your renewals at **217-483-2774**.

## JUNE MEETING RECAP

### *"I Will Leave a Legacy"*

#### **Guest Speaker: Dr. Naomi B. Lynn, Chancellor Emeritus for the University of Illinois at Springfield**

At our June meeting, Dr. Naomi Lynn shared several vignettes about her life and the lessons learned about leaving a legacy. Dr. Lynn became the fourth president of Sangamon State University in 1991 and the first chancellor of the University of Illinois at Springfield in 1995. She retired from that position in 2001. She has served on countless local, national and international boards, and she currently serves on Springfield's Regional/Urban Assistance Team. She and her husband, Robert, are the parents of four daughters.

Dr. Lynn admitted that leaving a legacy was part of her life that was largely ignored. To talk about a legacy somehow seems immodest or presumptuous. We most often find our legacy in the accomplishments of our children.

On the subject of legacy, she quoted Miguel de Cervantes who said: "There is a strange charm in the thoughts of a good legacy, or the hopes of an estate, which wondrously removes or at least alleviates the sorrow that men would otherwise feel for the death of friends."

And she quoted Woody Allen who said "80 percent of success is just showing up."

A self-described late-comer to her career, Dr. Lynn's first vignette revealed how just showing up matters. The 1960s and '70s was a time of social revolution and the changing role of women. Women were getting lower salaries and there were significant barriers in the workplace. While Lynn's husband worked full-time in academia, her primary job was raising the children, yet she made the effort to get a Ph.D. She quipped that she owes her career to President Nixon because he froze all national hiring at state universities, and there was a vacancy at Kansas State University that quickly needed to be filled. She had a Ph.D., so she got the job. All the male professors expected her appointment to be short, an interim post. Instead, she out-published all of them and stayed on for 10 years. She wrote a federal policy mandating protections against the discrimination of women. And in 1973, with the support of her provost, she wrote an Affirmative Action Plan for the university.

**Lessons learned?** 1. Like a Boy Scout, be prepared. She had completed her Ph.D. and, thus, was qualified for the unexpected job opportunity. 2. We accomplish little on our own. 3. One day pay back in kind by helping someone else.

Dr. Lynn shared five more inspirational vignettes that reveal her legacy and these lessons learned:

- To succeed you must be thick-skinned. "Don't let the \_\_\_\_\_ get you down" should become part of your mantra.
- Encourage others. Women like you can influence others in ways you can't even imagine.
- If you have ideas, share them. Impossible dreams do come true.
- Many of us have the opportunity to travel and learn from other cultures. We're the lucky ones. It's up to us to share what we learn. If we lead in this way our legacy will be inspirational.
- I learned at an early age that I was not God.
- Trust can only be earned.
- "When you follow your bliss... doors will open where you would not have thought there would be doors, and where there wouldn't be a door for anyone else." - Joseph Campbell

In closing, Dr. Lynn said: "I would be pleased with a legacy that enables my daughters to attend the college of their choice and to look ahead with confidence that their individual rights are protected and their future is determined by their own abilities and their own character."

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

### Want to network more with other Illinois Women in Leadership members by sharing a more personal side of yourself?

Volunteers have started small special interest groups (SIGs) that meet outside the time constraints of our monthly meetings. If you want to join or start a group, contact **Rachel Broughton** at 793-0262.

### Book Club

Val Yazell, 546-3860

### Gardening

JoAnn Abrams, 546-2249

e-mail [jabrams@rmc-bigenc.com](mailto:jabrams@rmc-bigenc.com)

### Golf

Mary Schaefer, 529-2600

### Gourmet

Susan Wilcockson, 483-2774

### Hiking

Viv Bennett, 622-8976

e-mail [viv@springnet1.com](mailto:viv@springnet1.com)

### Scrapbooking

Julie Krehbiel, 546-6112 (work) or  
546-0576 (home)

### Support Group for Members with Aging Parents - LOVE

Marianne Jackson, 498-8962

### The Underwires

Kate Hein, 498-8077

e-mail [hein535@springnet1.com](mailto:hein535@springnet1.com)

### Watercolor Painting

Shirley Caldwell Smith, 529-6959

e-mail [caldwellsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caldwellsmith@sbcglobal.net)

## MORE IWIL NEWS

## IWIL BOARD APPROVES SECOND MEETING LOCATION

The ad hoc committee met June 8, 2005, to discuss the Illinois Women in Leadership monthly meeting location. The voting members of the committee were Debbie Ringer (Past President), Viv Bennett (Past President), Judy Huston (Past President), Desiree Logsdon and Stacey Bredemeyer. Incoming president Val Yazell organized the committee but was not a voting member.

The by-laws clearly state "The Board of Directors may designate any place within 30 miles of Springfield, Illinois, as the place of meeting for the annual meeting, regular meetings, or any other special meeting called by the President or the Executive Board of Directors." (Article IV, Section 4). Although the by-laws allow changes to location by the board, it was felt that an ad hoc committee should make a recommendation to the board for their vote.

Discussion centered around meals, parking, and length of time spent with one service provider. The consensus was that parking is a primary concern. It was especially noted that lunch meetings cause tremendous parking challenges as the Sangamo Club has a busy noon business.

It was suggested that meetings could be held at the Inn at 835. Supporting one of our members, adequate parking, easy access and a new location were considerations given to this suggestion. An idea was offered that we have two locations for meetings. We would have all breakfasts at one location and all lunches at another location. The evening meetings would continue to be announced as booked. The following recommendation was put to the 2004-2005 board for approval.

"It is the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee that the Illinois Women in Leadership monthly meetings be held in two locations for the fiscal year 2005-2006. It is recommended that the breakfast meetings be held at the Sangamo Club and the luncheon meetings be held at the Inn at 835."

A vote was taken June 23, 2005, at the board meeting and passed in favor of the committee's recommendation.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**When:** 11:30 a.m., Thursday, August 18, 2005

**Where:** Inn at 835, 835 South Second Street, Springfield

**Topic:** "Soaring to New Heights and Doing the Talking in Springfield"

**Speaker:** Pamela Furr of Hot Talk 970 WMAY "Talkback with Pamela Furr NOW"

Remember what it was like to move to Springfield? Maybe you chose to, maybe you didn't, maybe you've never lived elsewhere. All the same you'll enjoy our kick-off speaker for 2005-2006, Pamela Furr, talk radio host at WMAY, country music performer, producer and business woman. Pam is vivacious and outgoing. A fairly recent transplant from Nashville, Tenn., Pam will tell us about taking on the challenges of moving to a new city - and one in the north at that! And check out her Website, [www.pamelafurr.com](http://www.pamelafurr.com).

**Cost:** \$14 Members, \$15 Guests, \$20 at the door

**Reservation forms can be found on the IWIL Website,**

[www.iwil.biz](http://www.iwil.biz), click on "Calendar & Activities." A form also will be e-mailed with the August newsletter.

**P.O. Box 5612**  
**Springfield, IL 62705-5612**  
[info@iwil.biz](mailto:info@iwil.biz)  
[www.iwil.biz](http://www.iwil.biz)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President** - Val Yazell

**Immediate Past President** -

Kathleen Stevens

**President Elect** - Rachel Broughton

**Secretary** - JoDeen Roley

**Treasurer** - Sally Quinn

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Communications** - Ann Londrigan

**Directory** - Mary Kay Allison

**Hospitality** - Annette Piper

**Membership** - Susan Wilcockson

**Mentoring** - Karen Westbrook

**Program** - Kate Hein

**Public Relations** - Cheryl Snyder

**Registration/Nametags** -

Sally Sevenser

**Scholarship** - Diane Hillard-Sembell

**Website** - Stephanie Sapetti

*Newsletter design by IWIL member*  
*Sharon Hewitt, Hewitt Graphic Design*



*"Soaring to New Heights"*

Send your **IWIL news** and address changes to [info@iwil.biz](mailto:info@iwil.biz)!

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

### Announcements & IWIL Member News

Congratulations to **Jackie Newman** who was named executive director of the **Springfield Housing Authority**. Jackie is the first woman to direct the Springfield Housing Authority. She began her career at SHA 20 years ago as a clerk/typist, rose through the ranks as administrative assistant to the executive director, human resources manager and director of Section 8 and family self-sufficiency.

Congratulations to the following IWIL members who graduated from the **Leadership Springfield Class of 2005** - **Karen Conn, Jean Jachino, Junell Ransdell, and Carol Watson!**

Congratulations to **Denise Rice** who has been appointed technology services officer, Information Technology division at **Horace Mann**. Rice will be responsible for the Infrastructure Operations Department within the IT Division. Rice began her career with Horace Mann two years ago as an assistant director in the IT application Support Department. She has 20 years of experience managing IT projects and teams, including managing the Corporate Services support group, the financial, human resource and customer service application portfolio.

**Carole Britton**, Express Personnel Services Springfield Office, received the **Gold Circle of Excellence** award for excellence and achievement in sales, recruitment and placement at Express Personnel's 23rd annual International Leadership Conference.

**Project Return** is a Christian non-profit organization recently formed to assist women with children in the transition process from prison to community living in the Springfield area. Monthly meetings are held at Luther Memorial Church, 2600 S. Fifth Street (corner of Fifth and Bryn Mawr), Springfield, on the third Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. We are seeking representation from churches in Springfield as well as volunteers, mentors and interested persons. Please come and help in a great cause. Call **Kay Gregg** or Project Return at 523-7931.

Special thanks to **Sharon Hewitt** of **Hewitt Graphic Design** who designed the new look of the IWIL newsletter, which is based on the design Sharon created for the IWIL Website.

### IWIL Garden Tour – July 31

**Save the date!** The IWIL Gardening SIG will be having a Garden Tour of four members' gardens on July 31. Details to come. For more info, contact **JoAnn Abrams** (546-2249) or **Viv Bennett** (622-8976).

### NEW SIG! The Underwires

President Val Yazell has approved a new SIG, **The Underwires**. This is a *support group* for members and non-members. (Just think about the name.) Kate Hein will be leading this group in 2005-2006. There probably won't be any meetings but the idea is that if you have a reason for us to reach out to you, in good or bad times, we want you to know we are here to shout and sing or quietly offer our support. We'll be doing so with cards, calls, quiet reflection, visits if you want, food if you want, e-mails. Sometimes it will be up to you to tell us what your need is. You may request confidentiality. If you want to submit a request on behalf of someone else, remember that joys and celebrations are good to share, but those requests of concern should be cleared through the individual first before sending them on to us. If you want to be a part of The Underwires or if you want us to share in your joys or sorrows, please contact **Kate Hein** at either 498-8077 or [hein535@springnet1.com](mailto:hein535@springnet1.com).