

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The votes are in and both bylaw changes have passed! Of the 210 eligible members to vote, 25 or 12% caste ballots with 25 in favor of change #1, 24 in favor of change #2, and one opposed to change #2. Of the 25 votes received, 14 used email to reply and 11 used snail mail. So what does this mean?

It means there will be no candidate for Vice President on the ballot for the 2005 – 2006 slate of officers. Instead of six candidates for officers, you'll only have five (President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer) to vote upon. The slate of officers has been presented to the Secretary by the Nominating Committee and ballots will be sent out to members before the annual meeting. The elected officers will be announced at the annual meeting.

Additionally, the other bylaw change allows the removal of Committee Chairs by the Officers rather than the entire Board of Directors. These changes will be made and the revised bylaws will be posted to our website. Also, the ballots for the bylaw change votes will be kept for 30 days for inspection after which time they will be shredded. Thank you to all those who participated in this process!

Charter member certificates will be presented at the inaugural membership reception and also at the annual meeting. Hope you can attend one of these important events and receive this impressive document authenticating your membership as a founding member of this new organization called IWIL!

Wear green and spend St. Patrick's Day evening with your IWIL colleagues! An interesting and informative training session on synergy and team building has been planned. You are encouraged to invite work associates because this is a great opportunity for a small business to receive some excellent and inexpensive training! We'll be holding the session in the new addition at the Inn at 835 so that's another good reason to join us!

Kathleen

IWIL INAUGURAL RECEPTION TONIGHT



**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY
AND EVERYONE'S INVITED**

There is still time to join us tonight, Tuesday, March 1, 2005 for the **Illinois Women in Leadership Inaugural Membership Reception**.

Where: Indigo Grille
620 South First Street
Springfield, Illinois

When: 5:30 pm to 7:00pm

Cost: \$10 at the door
(which includes appetizers and one drink ticket.)

GEM AWARDS DEADLINE APPROACHING

Congratulations to everyone who has been nominated for one of the **Illinois Women in Leadership GEM Awards**.

The **GEM Awards** are being presented to women who have demonstrated extraordinary standards of professional excellence; vision and dedication within the business and/or community arena.

Remember to complete the nominee process, you must fill out the nomination form in it's entirety and return it to **no later than 5:00pm on Friday, March 11, 2005** to:

Val Yazell
GEM Awards Chair
3105 Spring Mill Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Recipients in each of the categories will be announced on April 21, 2005 at our regular breakfast membership meeting.



FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

"I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE ... MENTORING"

Facilitator, **Cindy Davis**, began the meeting by stating "Mentoring is a very easy thing to do. Just reach out to someone else and give them an "up" in life!". She then introduced the distinguished Mentoring Panel; **Kristen Allen**, **Debbie Beard**, **Melissa Huffstedtler** and **Marggie Zimmerman**. Each candidate was asked the following questions and their responses are below.

- 1.) Tell us a real life success story from your mentoring program.
- 2.) What makes your mentoring program unique?
- 3.) How can we as Women in Leadership support your program?
- 4.) What does it mean to be a mentor? Why do you take the time to participate?

Kristin Allen, Executive Director, Boys/Girls Club

- 1.) Kristin told the story of Terrill. He was from a bad neighborhood and he had to move in with his aunt and then onto an older brother's home. In the midst of all this, he developed a relationship with his mentor, George. George is a staff member of the Boys/Girls Club and he helped Terrill become a junior staff member. Terrill accredits his success to George.
- 2.) Their program looks for volunteers who care share any type of mentoring. Whether it be volunteering to tutoring, teaching dance, working with runners or just teaching someone how to knit. Any of these skills can be a positive addition is helpful to their organization.
- 3.) By working with a child and knowing what is important to a child's relationship is that they need someone there for them no matter what the circumstances are in their life.
- 4.) What's important to a relationship to a child is that they need to know someone is there for them no what the circumstances are in their life.

Debbie Beard, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters

- 1.) Debbie shared a story about a mentoring story that began in 1993 between Big Brother Jeff and his "Little", Vince. Jeff was always there for Vince who had a very rough life. When Vince was younger, Jeff talked him into wrestling. After a lot of hard work and determination, Vince ended up winning a scholarship. Later, Vince became the first person in his family to graduate from high school. Overall, Jeff stated that he has gotten more out of this program and feels he has a best friend for life.
- 2.) Big Brothers Big Sisters matches a child and a mentor who are right for one another.
- 3.) Simply let Big Brothers Big Sisters know you're interested in mentoring a child. Also, there are events throughout the year that anyone can participate in to support their organization.
- 4.) Big Brothers Big Sisters is able to bring caring adults into the lives of hundreds of young people each year thanks in part to the generosity of people like you. Whether you make a financial contribution or volunteer your time, your support is vital to our success in helping the children of Sangamon and Christian Counties.

Melissa Huffstedtler, Executive Director, Communities in Schools (CIS)

- 1.) Melissa started talking about the "Lunch Buddy" Mentoring Program. She began telling a story of one student mentor who helped a girl graduate early by giving them a purpose to stay in school.
- 2.) Our mission is to connect community resources with schools to help young people learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. Schools work with CIS to identify and prioritize the needs of children and families served by individual school sites.
- 3.) Take time to mentor a student for one hour a week during a lunch hour at the school's campus. She invites us to support the Springfield School District 186 by hosting jobs for students, tutoring, becoming a motivational speaker, or just by making donations to schools.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP (CONTINUED)

Melissa Huffstedtler, Executive Director, Communities in Schools (continued)

4.) Some mentors who think they do not have the ability or interest to work with children find they are successful, fulfilled and become life changing figures in a student's life. It's all about making time and using your talents.

Marggie Zimmerman, M*power Mentor and Award Winning Mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters

1.) Marggie decided to become a mentor after a WIM meeting and went through interviews to become a mentor to a 5th grade student, a girl whose mother was legally blind. She became a part of the Zimmerman family. She also participated in the Relay for Life when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. Marggie, being a 10 year survivor herself, helped them through this tough time.

2.) M*power offers several different opportunities. You can volunteer as an M*power PAL and your commitment would be 8 to 10 hours per month for a minimum of a year. M*power Career Speakers allows you an opportunity to speak during the M*power PAL program if you would like to volunteer some of your time but are unable to commit to a mentoring program. M*power Lunch Buddies is part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Corporate Mentoring Program where you would be matched with an elementary student for one hour each week.

3.) By volunteering your time in any of the M*power programs.

4.) The commitment is relatively small, and the rewards the volunteer receives from spending time with a child is insurmountable. Bring a little M*power into the life of a young girl in your community and help celebrate the moments of everyday magic.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE MARCH MEETING

SPEAKER: TERESA GREGOIRE
(ASSISTANT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MANAGER, CRAWFORD, MURPHY & TILLY, INC.)

TOPIC: "I WILL PARTICIPATE & ENCOURAGE OTHERS ... SYNERGISM WORKSHOP"

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

TIME: 5:30PM TO 8:00PM

WHERE: INN AT 835 CONSERVATORY
835 SOUTH SECOND STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

COST: \$15 MEMBERS; \$15 GUESTS; \$25 AT THE DOOR (CASH BAR)

Teresa Gregoire will be conducting a Synergy Workshop. Members are encouraged to bring work associates with them because there will be team building exercises throughout the evening.

(Reservation forms for the March meeting will be e-mailed to the membership on Thursday, March 3, 2005.)

REMINDER: All reservations and payments must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, March 14, 2005.

Send completed registration forms and payments to:

Illinois Women In Leadership Program Registration
Attn: Jackie Newman
Springfield Housing Authority
1910 Truman Road
Springfield, IL 62703

No phone reservations are accepted. All late reservations will be invoiced a \$6.00 late fee.

SIG CONTACTS

Would you like to increase networking and strengthen the bonds with other Illinois Women In Leadership members by sharing a more personal side of yourself? The Special Interest Groups (SIG's) might be the answer. Volunteers have started small groups with specific interests that meet outside the time constraints of our monthly meeting. If you have an interest and would like to start a group, please contact **Val Yazell** at **546-3860** for guidance.

***BOOK CLUB**

Contact **Val Yazell** at **546-3860**.

***CAREER SEELERS**

Contact **Mary Furrrie** at **529-9645** or mary@gams.com.

***GARDENING**

Contact **JoAnn Abrams** at **546-2249** or via e-mail at jabrams@rmc-bigenc.com.

***GOLF**

Contact **Mary Schaefer** at **529-2600**.

***GOURMET**

Contact **Susan Wilcockson** at **483-2774**.

***HIKING**

Contact **Viv Bennett** at viv@springnet1.com or call **622-8976**.

***SCRAPBOOKING**

Contact **Julie Krehbiel** at **546-6112** (work) or **546-0576**(home).

***SUPPORT GROUP for members with aging PARENTS-LOVE**

Contact **Marianne Jackson** at **498-8962**.

***WATERCOLOR PAINTING**

Contact **Shirley Caldwell** at **529-6959** or via email at caldwellsmith@sbcglobal.net.

IWIL MEMBERSHIP GROWING

The **Illinois Women in Leadership** membership has been growing strong with **214** members at press time.

Each month we will be introducing our new members.

Please join us in welcoming the new members who joined **IWIL** this past month.

FEBRUARY 2005 NEW MEMBERS

Julianne Brown
(Horace Mann Insurance)

Judy Donley Henderson
(All His Children Development Center, Inc.)

Sally Hardwick
(Illinois Department of Human Services)

Barb Sullivan
(VNA of Central of Illinois)

DREAMING THE DREAM

Did you ever dream about what you wanted to be when you grew up? If the answer is yes, and I am sure it is, the IWIL Mentoring Committee is seeking your help.

On Thursday, April 14, 2005, we are sponsoring "**Dreaming the Dream**", a career awareness activity for the girls at Southeast High School. We are also seeking items we can use for raffles to encourage the girls to participate. Make-up, gift Certificates, jewelry, movie passes or anything else of interest to teenage girls would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact **Karen Westbrook** or **Cindy Davis** if you are interested.

GOLF SIG TAKES TO THE GREENS

NOTICE IWIL WOMEN GOLFERS!

Beginning Monday, May 9, 2005 the IWIL Women's Golf League will officially start at Pasfield Park Golf Course. Our tee-time is 5:35 p.m. Green fees are \$7.50 per night. We will be playing a 12-week league this year!

If you are interested in joining the golf league this year, please contact Mary Schaefer at mschaefer@iar.org or phone (217) 529-2600, ext. 129. Reservations are being accepted. This league also accepts women golfers outside of IWIL and to date we are receiving a large response. Be sure to get your reservation in early! Beginning and Experienced golfers accepted! A great networking opportunity and improve your golf game!

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President	Kathleen Stevens
President Elect	Val Yazell
Vice President	Rachel Broughton
Treasurer	Theresa Boley
Secretary	Kate Hein
Organization Advisor	Marianne Jackson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications	Eileen Kluckman
Hospitality	Denise Rice
Membership	Susan Wilcockson
Membership Directory Co-Chairs	Nora Sansone Hoover Pat Hughes
Mentoring	Cindy Davis
Program	Becky Hendricks
Public Relations	Cyndi Deitrick
Registration/Nametags Co-Chairs	Jean Jachino Jackie Newman
Scholarship	Diane Hillard-Sembell

Contact Us Via Email at
info@iwil.biz

We are on the web at
www.iwil.biz

Illinois Women In Leadership
P.O. Box 5612
Springfield, IL 62705-5612

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT, UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE...

Congratulations to **Denise Rice** for her recent appointment to Technology Services Officer at Horace Mann Insurance. **Denise** began her career with Horace Mann in 2003 as Assistant Director in the IT Application Department and has successfully managed several high-profile projects.

Jan Sescleifer of **The Enrichment Group** has been hired by **Illinois WINGS** as the marketing/event planner consultants. **Illinois WINGS** is a non profit organization that pays for breast cancer treatment for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. The Enrichment Group is a training, consulting and event planning business. For more information, please contact **Jan** at **698-8141**.

If you are toying with the idea of becoming more organized in your home or office for maximum efficiency contact **Sally Sevener**, owner of **Sally's Organizing Service** for a free consultation. And remember, there is no better time to get organized than to get Organized Now.

On Wednesday, March 9, 2005 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, **Downtown Springfield, Inc.**, will be hosting a free "**Revitalization Workshop**". Learn how to renovate an existing building downtown; what financial help is available; and ideas, ideas, ideas. Contact **Cindy Davis** for more information.

Computer Banc will be hosting a "**Trivia Night**" on Friday, March 11, 2005 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2200 South Meadowbrook in Springfield. Al Gietl will provide power point with great questions. The cost is \$10 per person with teams consisting of 8-10 players. Call **Computer Banc** at **528-9506** to reserve your table.

The Greater Springfield Business Connections 2005, the business trade show for greater Springfield will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2005 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. The exposition will feature exhibitors of more than 100 of the area's finest businesses. For more information, contact **David Earhart** at The Chamber at **525-1173**.

Reserve a booth at **The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce** upcoming **Spring & Career Job Fair**, scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza. Hundreds of career and job seekers will attend this popular annual event. Contact **Sharon Theison** at The Chamber for more details.

Illinois WINGS is hosting the **Premier Cuisine** event on Monday, May 2, 2005 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the Springfield Hilton. The fundraiser features chefs from both the Chicago and Springfield areas, along with a silent auction. Tickets for the event are \$50. We are seeking sponsors and silent auction items. Please contact **Jan Sescleifer** at **698-8141** for tickets, sponsorships or to donate silent auction items.

The Small Business Person of the Year Awards luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza. Join us in recognizing the excellence of our area small business people and advocates. Cost to attend is \$20. Contact **Sharon Theison** at The Chamber for more details.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

To everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter and especially to all of the members who participate and make this organization a continued success.

Eileen Kluckman, Communications Chair