


 iwil

 Illinois women
in leadership

together we will

IWIL CALENDAR 2007 – 2008

OCTOBER

Date: Thursday, October 18
Time: Luncheon (11:30 a.m.)
Location: Inn at 835
Program: "Giving Dynamic Presentations" with Cindy Davis

NOVEMBER

Date: Thursday, November 15
Time: Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)
Location: Sangamo Club
Program: "Serving on Boards and Committees" with Jill Steiner

DECEMBER

Date: Thursday, December 6
Time: Evening
Location: TBA
Program: IWIL Holiday Social & Silent Auction

JANUARY

Date: Thursday, January 17
Time: Luncheon (11:30 a.m.)
Location: Inn at 835
Program: "Running an Effective Meeting" with Val Yazell

FEBRUARY

Date: Thursday, January 21
Time: Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)
Location: Sangamo Club
Program: "The In's and Out's of Networking" with Mary Croft

IWIL TAX STATUS

The IRS has granted IWIL 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Membership dues, contributions and donations are tax deductible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"In Orbit – To Infinity and Beyond"

Karen Loeb Westbrook, IWIL President

In Orbit. Our IWIL year is well underway. Our flight path, planned by the Program Committee, has blasted us into space with high energy speakers who have started the adrenalin flowing. We are now in the Orbit phase of our journey during which we will focus on enhancing a variety of skills and concentrate on our scholarship program.

Our organization has a vast reservoir of talent. This year, I asked the Program Committee to consider asking some of our members to share their knowledge and experience with the membership as presenters. I recognize that there may be some hurt feelings because not everyone can participate. I wish we had the time to ask for more participation. It is my hope that over time we will continue to tap the talents of our membership in this manner.

As on any voyage, there are a few bumps in the road. (Mine, most recently, was luggage lost between Philadelphia and St. Louis.) Unfortunately, due to a change in employment status, Aissa Bell will not be continuing as our Registration Chair after October. Thank you, Aissa, for the work you have done. And, speaking of organization talent, we are fortunate that Kathy Maslouski has agreed to chair the Registration Committee. Please let Kathy know if you would like to help greet people at meetings....but not until after October 17th when she returns from her journey to Ireland.

I'll see you at the meeting October 18th. Please remember to send in your registration form.



NEW REGISTRATION DEADLINE!

FRIDAY BEFORE

To get a better headcount and better manage program costs, the registration deadline for IWIL programs has moved up to the Friday before the meeting (**October 12 for the Oct. 18 meeting!**)

5 STEPS TO REINVENT YOURSELF

BY LINDA CASTOR

1. Share your feelings and seek support.
2. Explore your talents and reassess your aspirations.
3. Recognize great opportunities.
4. Expect the unexpected and learn to cope with setbacks.
5. Establish and pursue NEW goals.

LIKE TO PLAN SOCIALS?

JOIN HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee is looking for additional members to help with planning the Holiday Social & Scholarship Fundraiser. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Carlissa Pucket.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING RECAP

FIND MINUTES ONLINE IN MEMBERS ONLY

The Illinois Women in Leadership board met on Monday, September 10 and below are some highlights. Find minutes and the Treasurer's Report online at www.iwil.biz, Members Only Home.

- The Communications and Membership committees will look into sending postcards to confirm that members are getting IWIL information.
- Three new members were approved unanimously.
- The Scholarship Committee met with the Sangamon County Scholarship Foundation to set awards for the IWIL high school and Chrysalis scholarships. The application deadline will be March 15, 2008.
- The Mentoring Committee is working on a new member packet.

REINVENTING YOURSELF

LINDA CASTOR, RN, LCPC AND AN IWIL GEM AWARD WINNER

Linda Castor started the program by listing some of the different roles she has held throughout her life, including: puppeteer, lifeguard, watercolorist, model, nurse and therapist. Then she donned a tiara and feather boa to announce that she is the queen of PowerPoint, but that she had challenge herself to present to us without it. She really is the queen of reinventing herself!

Linda reminded us of how when we are young we were sometimes given labels, such as "the smart one," "the athlete" or "science nerd" and they stick with us and push us into roles that we may not have wanted. We may ask "how did I get here?" Or recognize that we are bored with where we are and need a new challenge. According to Linda, there is no reason to stay stuck.

Although at one point, with self-effacing humor, she crowned herself "Queen of Looking a Gift-Horse in the Mouth," she provided excellent examples of opportunities that she is glad she took, including the offer to write for *The State Journal-Register* and the chance to meet with two members of the Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE). She said that the free advice from SCORE helped her focus on her values and passions, envision her business over the next five years and develop a marketing plan. If you want to seek assistance from SCORE, call 793-5020.

Linda also shared with us that she has always been interested in the weight loss/gain dynamic – starting when she was 12 years old. She showed us a photograph that demonstrated her own challenge with weight gain during pregnancy. She also explained that in a past career she had worked in an emotionally abusive environment, and that the end of that job resulted in what she calls "forced change" and led her to want to help others suffering from emotional abuse.

In describing how these experiences and interests caused her to reinvent herself and establish her new career, she noted that change and challenges both bring opportunities. One example of this was when she took on the role of Gabrielle in Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party" four years ago. When she started, she discovered that she had horrible stage fright, but learning "to get up there without throwing up or passing out" certainly helped lay the foundation for her current role, which includes public speaking. Linda gave an inspiring presentation, and from watching and listening to her you would never believe she ever had stage fright!

Her final words of advice were to remember that change brings opportunity and to have a focus for each day. Linda's current focus is trying to get a manuscript published and we wish her continued success!

-- By Sarah L. Beuning, IWIL Communications Committee

CHANGE BRINGS OPPORTUNITY! – Linda Castor

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 SIG, contact **Annette Piper** at apiper@ibankmarine.com.

Book Club

Marianne Jackson, 217-498-8962
See the [IWIL online calendar](#) for schedule and current reading selection.

Gardening

JoAnn Abrams, 217-546-2249 or
jabrams@rmc-biqcnc.com

Golf

Sharon Thornton Knop, 217-496-3050 or Mallorie Teubner, 217-496-3119

Gourmet

Susan Fulks, 217-483-2774

Hiking

Viv Bennett, 217-622-8976 or
viv8976@insightbb.com

Scrapbooking

Viv Bennett, 217- 622-8976 or
viv8976@insightbb.com

Support Group for Members with Aging Parents – LOVE

Marianne Jackson, 217-498-8962

The Underwires

Mary Mann, 217-525-3000 or
mary.mann@rsmi.com

MORE IWIL NEWS

IWIL PROVIDES LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

EXCERPT FROM SUMMER 2007 ISSUE OF THE SANGAMON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Illinois Women in Leadership has a long history of helping young women pursuing collegiate dreams. To help maintain the tradition, IWIL recently established the Illinois Women in Leadership Scholarship Fund through the Sangamon County Community Foundation.

"One of the philosophies of IWIL is to support and encourage leadership of young women," said IWIL Past President **Val Yazell**. "We want to give back to the community and support young women coming into the workplace. It's very important to support young women in leadership. We feel very strongly about that."

The Fund will provide \$1,000 scholarships to three high school senior girls from Sangamon County, who are chosen through an application and interview process. IWIL uses an 8 to 10 person committee to choose the finalists who are then interviewed by IWIL representatives. The group often maintains contact with the past scholarship recipients which helps inspire IWIL to continue the program.

In an effort to expand its scholarship program to more applicants, IWIL introduced the Chrysalis Scholarship for Women in 2007. The scholarship provides \$1,000 to a woman who has been out of high school for a few years and is returning to college to pursue an undergraduate degree.

"We want to support women who for whatever reason couldn't go straight to college from high school," said Yazell.

The establishment of the Fund through the Sangamon County Community Foundation continues a long history of giving by Illinois Women in Leadership. The group has been awarding the scholarships for more than 20 years, the last three as IWIL and the previous scholarships as Women in Management.

IWIL funds the scholarship through an auction and holiday social event in December. The group consists of close to 200 members. Learn more at www.iwil.biz.

IWIL MEMBERS TALK IT UP

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A WOMAN CONSIDERING A CAREER CHANGE?

"Take your time, talk to everyone in the business and do lots of research into existing opportunities." – **Mary Mann**, Office Administrator, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

"Think about what will make you happy AND what will work with your life and family. Balance is essential." – **Sarah Dellert**, Branch Sales Manager, Regions Bank

"Just go for it!" – **Gay Davidson**, owner, Computer Help!

-- By Sarah L. Beuning, IWIL Communications Committee

ILLINOIS WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Karen Loeb Westbrook
Immediate Past President -
Rachel Broughton
Vice President – Annette Piper
Secretary – Sharon Thornton Knop
Treasurer – Sheryl Daugherty

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications - Ann Londrigan
Directory – Brenda Shutz
Hospitality – Carlissa Puckett
Membership – Linda Nickerson
Mentoring – Janice Hahn
Program – Kathleen Stevens
Public Relations – Eileen Kluckman
Registration - Aissa Bell and Kathy Maslouski
Scholarship – Jill Leka
Website – Theresa Boley

“To Infinity and Beyond”



Send your **IWIL** news to
info@iwil.biz!

If you wish to opt-out of future e-mail communications, please let us know by sending a message to info@iwil.biz and you will be added to the snail mail list.

Newsletter design IWIL's Sharon Hewitt, Hewitt Graphic Design

MORE IWIL NEWS

IWIL PAY TO SAYS FROM AUGUST FIND PAY TO SAY GUIDELINES AT WWW.IWIL.BIZ

Mary Caroline Mitchell says come out to UIS during Homecoming Week, Oct. 1-6! Check out the Website: www.uis.edu. There is a Homecoming College, alumni-student basketball in the new Rec Center, a parade with floats and lots of candy and a special dinner for SSU grads.

Amy Sherwood is soliciting fun donations (services/products/gift certificates) for the Springfield Christian School “Catch the Vision 2007” event, to be held Nov. 2 at Illini Country Club. If you are interested in supporting SCS please contact Amy! Thanks!

Sangamon Watercolor Society invites you to view our exhibit at the downtown Springfield Chase Bank during the month of October – Fine Arts Month. **Shirley Coldwell Smith** will exhibit three paintings.

Donna Rogers, SPHR, with Rogers HR Consulting was recently selected to receive a SHRM Foundation \$750 Certification Scholarship! The SHRM Foundation commits \$100,000 annually to be awarded by its regions to members working full-time and pursuing a degree or professional certification in human resource management. Each scholarship recipient is selected based on scholastic achievement, work experience and a commitment to a career in human resources.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

IWIL MENTORING COMMITTEE

The Mentoring Committee hopes to get you connected in IWIL if you are not already! Participating in one of the many fun committees is a wonderful way to meet new people and serve in areas of interest. This is the way to really become connected to this club! Within the Mentoring Committee itself we have three areas to choose from: Mentoring New Members, Mentoring High School girls, Personal Mentoring within our group or one-on-one. Call or email Jill Kennedy-Broughton, your Mentoring chair, for more information: 698-8505, CoachJill88@msn.com. Learn more at www.iwil.biz, Programs.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NEXT IWIL PROGRAM

When: 11:30 a.m., Thursday, October 18, 2007

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

Topic: “Giving Dynamic Presentations”

Speaker: **Cindy Davis, President, Resource One**

Anyone can convey information to a group but not all presentations are created equal. Learn about capturing the attention of your audience while you effectively deliver a message. **Cost:** \$17 Members, \$18 Guests, \$22 at the door

Reservation forms can be found on the IWIL Website, www.iwil.biz, Calendar & Activities.