

# Women In Leadership

Central Illinois

March 2008

## A Note from Your President

Dear WIL Members,

At the board meeting on February 18, 2008, we approved 5 new members, which brings our membership count to 118. We all need to give ourselves a round of applause for all the networking we've done to share what WIL means to each of us. It is not about the number, but about sharing this organization with other women in our community.

**SCHOLARSHIP** - I know you have seen notes about the scholarship and hear us talk about the birthday auction money going toward this. We are very passionate about the scholarship and want to make sure we get the word out to have women apply! This scholarship is for women in the Tri-county area who are graduates from high school or recipients of GED, have been in the workforce for three-years, and are pursuing additional college, accreditation or other certifications. The scholarship is to defer tuition fees, books and other academic expenses. If you know women who qualify and would be interested, please have them apply today on-line at [www.communityfoundationci.org](http://www.communityfoundationci.org). Go to Scholarships, look at bottom of the page for Women in Leadership Scholarship and then read the qualifications and complete the application on -line. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2008. The scholarship will be announced at our May Awards luncheon.

Shawna Knapp told the board, that we have numerous members who have been nominated for the awards. Now the nominees need to complete the forms by March 31, 2008 and email, mail or fax to Shawna. Our May luncheon will be exciting to see who has won this year's awards.

One more quick note about events being planned. Allison Vershaw will be chairing our annual conference this year. Stay tuned for committee opportunities and a contest to rename the conference and design a logo!

Again, it is a great opportunity to be part of the Women in Leadership of Central Illinois and I am very honored to be your president and network with of our members!

Your President,  
Donna Cimino

## Next Meeting: **March 13th** (Country Club of Peoria)

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 13 at the County Club of Peoria.

Meal: Clubhouse Sandwich  
Fruit Pie

We are honored to have Pam Schubach, of the YWCA, as our speaker this month. Pam has been the CEO of the YWCA of Peoria

since 1991. During the past 17 years Ms. Schubach has devoted the efforts of the association on services impacting their mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

In 1996 the YWCA opened the YWCA village. In 2003 the YWCA also opened a new child care facility in

partnership with CityLink at the relatively new bus transfer site in downtown Peoria. In 2005, the YWCA opened the first family focused permanent supportive housing development in Peoria in the near NorthSide.

Pam is married to Michael

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### SPECIAL REMINDERS:

- To help avoid congestion at the registration table, please have your check ready when you get to the door!
- If you make a reservation for the luncheon and are unable to attend, you are still responsible for full payment of your reservation.
- Don't forget—the cost of meals has gone up as of February 1. Members \$20 and Guests \$25.

## Board of Directors

### *President:*

Donna Cimino  
dcimino@hbcpcas.com

### *Immediate Past President:*

Emma Vandevveer

### *President Elect:*

Marcia Cannon  
mcannon@westaff.com

### *President-Elect Presumptive:*

Allison Vershaw  
allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net

### *Secretary:*

Joan Vierhout  
Joan.vierhout@sts.aecom.com

### *Treasurer:*

Becky Davies  
beckycd@sbcglobal.net

### *VP/Membership:*

Beth Kolowski  
beth@heart.net

### *VP/Programs:*

Michelle (Shelli) Cowser  
mcowser@henneman.com

### *VP/Public Relations:*

Allison Vershaw  
allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net

### *Asst VP Membership:*

Julie Morales  
jmorales@peoriomagazines.com

### *Director/Awards:*

Shawna Knapp  
shawnak@fgmarchitects.com

### *Director/Reservations:*

Kathy Schaeffer  
kls@ssinet.com

### *Director/Special Projects:*

Amy Pearson  
apearson@hotelperemarquette.com

### *Director/Monthly Luncheons*

Debbie Sippel  
djsippel@southsidebank.com

### *Director/Network Luncheons;*

Betsy Yarcho  
byarcho@envisions.com

## Welcome New WIL Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the WIL family. We are excited to have each of you!

- Carolyn Kroupa – Smith Barney
- Louisa M. Blanchard – A.G. Edwards
- Candace Summers – Fabulous Females “A Natural New You”
- Sara A. Horn – WAOE \ My 59
- Cindy Fletcher – PARC

Congratulations to the following members who have positions with new companies:

- Sharon Law – F&M Bank
- Dana Beck – Newforma, Inc.
- Kristen Berchtold – Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

## Membership Updates

We continue to have many guests each month...great job! Continue to invite your friends and associates to join you at WIL monthly meetings, network luncheons and special events. Our membership now stands at 118 members!!

## WIL Website

Check out your WIL Website ([www.peoriawomeninleadership.com](http://www.peoriawomeninleadership.com)). How can we make it more informative for you, our members? Send your suggestions to Kathy Schaeffer ([kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)).

If you haven't checked out our website in awhile, please do! There are past newsletters, reservation forms, pictures and so much more!

## Next Meeting (cont'd from pg 1)

Schubach and has two teenage children who attend the University of Illinois and Richwoods High School.

She has lived in Peoria since 1981 and is originally from Indiana where she received her Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University.

The RSVP deadline is March 7. Please be sure to send your reservation form to Kathy Schaeffer ([kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)) to reserve your place.

To avoid cancellation fees (in the full amount) you are required to cancel by 12:00 noon on Friday, March 7. We look forward to seeing you at the **March 13th** luncheon/meeting at the

Country Club of Peoria.

## Birthday Auction & Door Prizes

Thank you to the following people for their generous donations for the Birthday Auction. Also thank you to the people who purchased those items. We raised a total of **\$140.00** to be used for scholarships.

- Glass Hurricane Vase filled with a bottle of VEO Grande Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Wine; Fresh mint and Juicy Orange Yankee candle Votives; 5 bags of various Hershey Nuggets donated by Shelli Cowser, Henneman Engineering, Inc. *purchased by Diane Davis, Traders Realty for \$50.00*
- Brighton Business Card Holder and Divided Pill Box donated by Nancie Cassidy, Three Sisters Park *purchased by Denise McMahan, Oberlander Communications Systems for \$55.00*
- Scrap booking/craft basket donated by Jodi Tarter, Holmes Murphy & Associates *purchased by Louisa Guzman for \$35.00*

### Door Prizes:

- Carolynsue Wolf – ICC & Bethel Church – (3) bags of Candy Kisses
- Kathy Schaeffer - Stellar Systems – (2) insulated mugs
- Diane Davis – Traders Realty – Romance Beanie Baby born on 8/20
- Robin Barnes – Peoria Civic Center – Picture frame with clock

## WIL Scholarship Applications

The Women in Leadership of Central Illinois is targeted at assisting women in the Tri-County area who are pursuing college/university, post graduate, or accreditation/certification for business management/professional or entrepreneurial education. The award is intended to defer tuition, fees, books, and other academic expenses. The amount of the award will not exceed **\$1,000** per academic year and may vary from year to year. Scholarships may be renewed pending re application and approval from the Board of Directors of Women in Leadership of Central Illinois.

### Eligibility:

The scholarship will be available to qualified women who are residents of the Illinois Tri-County area as well as being a graduate of a high school or a recipient of GED. The applicant should have motivation to accomplish a career and leadership goals. Financial need will be considered only when other factors are equal among applications. The applicant should also be a non-traditional student...in the workforce a minimum of three years.

### Application Deadline:

If you know women who qualify and would be interested, please have them apply today on-line at [www.communityfoundationci.org](http://www.communityfoundationci.org). The Scholarship deadline is **March 15th.**

## Calendar of Events

### **Date: Thursday, March 13**

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Speaker: Pam Schubach, YWCA

Topic: "Empowering Women, Strengthening Our Community"

### **Date: Thursday, March 31**

Event: WIL Award Applications are due

Contact: Shawna Knapp

### **Date: Thursday, April 10**

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Speaker: Ketra Mytich, Attorney

Topic: "Estate Planning"

### **Date: Thursday, May 8**

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Event: WIL Awards Banquet

### **Date: Thursday, June 12**

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Speaker: Karel Murray, National Speaker

Topic: "Reality to Remarkable"

## Pay To “Toot Your Horn”

The guidelines for “Toot Your Horn” state *these announcements are for member recognition or upcoming events; not business advertisement. This will take the place of our “30 Second Celebration.”*

Just provide your written information on the space provided below to our Awards Chair, Shawna Knapp, along with \$2 per announcement and she will share your news at the next WILCI meeting. Would you like to “toot” someone else’s horn who may be shy? Same rules apply. Proceeds will go towards the Scholarship Fund.

### Pay to “Toot Your Horn” Guidelines:

- Announcements should be limited to 50 words.
- The first 10 submissions will be read at the meeting; all others will be included in the following month’s newsletter. You may email your announcement to our Awards Chair, Shawna Knapp ([shawnak@fgmarchitects.com](mailto:shawnak@fgmarchitects.com)) one week prior to each meeting.
- The Cost per each Announcement will be \$2.
- No more than (2) Announcements per month.
- The Awards Committee shall have final say.
- Submissions shall be made each month – no repeats.

Thank you and we look forward to sharing your Great Achievements!

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## Toot Your Horn January Announcements

- **Diane Davis** was recently awarded the Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) designation. Davis, of Traders Realty, joins other Realtors in the residential real estate industry from across the nation who hold this designation. In Illinois, less than 10 percent of the 60,000 member Illinois Association of Realtors has achieved this designation. And because of my 2007 production, Traders has just given me an office!!!!!!
- **Shawna Knapp** On Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> FGM Architects held its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual shareholders meeting which was followed by the annual Board Meeting. This is the meeting at which all of our officers are appointed for the New Year. Shawna Knapp is a newly confirmed Associate officer. This title usually requires 5 years of service, of which Shawna has been with FGM only 3.5 years. Of the 94 employees, there are 8 other Associates, 19 Senior Associates, 11 Vice Presidents, 3 Executive Vice Presidents, 1 CFO, and 1 CEO/President.
- **Nancie Cassidy** She and her husband Chris celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with friends at Alexander Street Steakhouse She and her husband celebrated again on January 22nd (the actual date) for dinner at the Fish House.

## WIL Special Events

Calling all WIL Women...if you are like most of us and need a break from the doldrums of Winter, why not grab your WIL friends and take the opportunity to meet some new WIL members at the next two...

### WIL "Girl's Night Out"

**April 8, 2008**

"Strictly Fantastic Appetizers"

Join us at Hearth and Patio for a fabulous cooking class with internationally trained Chef Pat Glatz while he trains us on Strictly Fantastic Appetizers.

Location: Hearth & Patio  
Address: 8304 N. University Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61615  
Time: 6-9 pm  
Cost: \$35.00/per person  
RSVP by: April 1, 2008



To learn more about the class you can log onto this website. <http://www.hearthandpatio.net/classes/cookclass.html>

**May 8, 2008**

"All Fired Up!"

Join us at Fired Up for a great evening of painting pottery. If you missed this one last year you'll want to be sure to attend this time! We had such a great time getting creative as we painted a variety of pieces that can be used for home or office décor ...or even a special gift for a friend!

A light snack will be provided, BYOB for beverages

Location: Fired Up  
Address: 4532 N. Prospect Road (Peoria Heights)  
Time: 6-9pm  
Cost: \$7.00 studio fee + the cost of your piece  
RSVP by: May 1, 2008



To learn more about Fired Up, be sure to check out their website: [www.firedupstudios.biz](http://www.firedupstudios.biz)

**\*\*Keep in mind, seating will be limited for both of these events! Be sure to RSVP to Amy Pearson to reserve your space today! You can either call Amy at: 671-9404 or via email: [apearson@hotelperemarquette.com](mailto:apearson@hotelperemarquette.com)\*\***

We'll see you there!

## 2007-2008 WIL Awards

I would like to thank all those who nominated fellow WIL members for this year's Award Program. There were almost 40 women nominated amongst the three different awards. Many of the nominees responded that they were very honored for the nomination. The nominations were anonymous, but I'd like you to encourage those you've nominated to complete and submit their applications. You may even offer to help them with the application.

The first notifications of applicants were sent out as you were nominated. I have sent out the second notifications of applicants February 19, 2008. The applications were attached in the e-mail. Please contact me directly if you need another copy or request a hard paper copy.

Now is the time for the nominees to be working on their applications. The submittal deadline is 5 PM on March 31, 2008. They can be faxed, e-mailed, or mailed to my attention. Thank you to those who have already submitted their applications.

Shawna Knapp  
Director of Awards  
C/o FGM Architects, Inc.  
202 NE Madison, Suite 102  
Peoria, Illinois 61602  
Phone: 309/669-0012  
Fax: 309/669-0013  
e-mail: [shawnak@fgmarchitects.com](mailto:shawnak@fgmarchitects.com)

## 2008 Annual Conference

As many of you know, WIL hosts an annual conference each year. Well, it's that time again where we are seeking volunteers in a variety of roles. There will be committee heads and subcommittees to help alleviate the stress you may feel with all the time constraints many of us have!

Other ways to get involved are through our "Logo" and our "Name the Conference" contests. There is so much talent within our organization and it's time we tap into our resources! If you have a slogan, name or idea, pass it on! We'd love to see what you can create. And for our logo contest—how creative can you get? Please email your ideas and drawing to Allison Vershaw by March 14.

If you are interested in being a part of this years conference on any level, please email Allison Vershaw at [allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net). Note, We will have a committee meeting toward the end of March, so please be on the lookout for more information.



## Happy March Birthday(s)

Monica	Jagiella	Mar 4
Carol	Hultgren	Mar 9
Deborah	Dornaus	Mar 13
Erin	Callahan	Mar 16
Jamie	Crain	Mar 20
Erikka	Brookhart	Mar 24
Kimberly	Parham	Mar 25
Sharon	Law	Mar 26
Amy	Simmons	Mar 31

A special thank you to Susan Rees and Cindy Smith for being our greeters at the February luncheon!

## Network Lunches

Network Luncheon Leaders have been scheduled for most of the year and we hope all members will take this opportunity to get involved! Network lunches are smaller groups that are the perfect setting to get to know each other better and exchange information and ideas. Please remember we encourage you to attend the luncheon for your group as well as any of the other luncheons scheduled.

Any questions, please contact Betsy Yarcho at Envision Insurance, 266-2117 or byarcho@envisions.com

### Shawna Knapp (lunches at 12:00 noon)

- March 7:** Jalapeño's (in the Metro Center)
- April 4: Rizzi's Downtown
- May 2: Eamon Patrick's (downtown by Jim's Steakhouse)
- June 6: Rhythm Kitchen (my birthday! No presents please....just dessert! Haha...)
- July 2: Carnegie's 501 (Pere Marquette) (Note: this is a Wednesday since July 4th is the first Friday)
- August 1: 401 Café

### Cathy Thomatis & Kathy Schaeffer

- March 25:** Mings
- April 22: Avanti's (North Knoxville)
- May 27: Ruby Tuesday's (Westlake)
- June 24: Cyd's (Junction City)

### Stacy Frederking

- March 19:** Eamon Patrick's
- April 23: Cyd's
- May 21: Kelleher's
- June 18: Flat Top Grill
- July 23: Riverstation
- August 20: Copperworks
- September 17: Ponte Vecchio

### Linda Martin

- March 21:** Rizzi's
- April 18: River Station
- May 16: Rhythm Kitchen
- June 20: Fahey's Downtown (old F Scotts)
- July 18: Kelleher's
- August 22: Jonah's Seafood House
- September 19: Carnegies 501

### Beth Kolowski (lunches at 12:00 noon)

- March 28:** Basta (Peoria Heights)
- April 23: Avanti's (North Knoxville)
- May 21: Uno's (Mark Twain Hotel)
- June 18: Rizzi's (Downtown)