

Women In Leadership

Central Illinois

May 2008

A Note from Your President

Dear WIL Members,

As we all get ready for spring and summer, it is my privilege to be your president especially during the next month as we celebrate our award winners.

Shawna Knapp has been working very hard to get everything arranged, including the judges, the information to the judges, the awards ordered and just everything ready for the luncheon on May 8, 2008. Make sure you send your reservation today. You will not want to miss this celebration.

Also, remember to bring a plant for the plant exchange. Last year, it was very festive to have all the flowers you could just feel the weather changing to Spring.

As we continue to work on the annual conference, we will keep all of you updated. Marcia Cannon and Allison Vershaw are working together to coordinate WIL and NAWBO, plus the committee. Mark the date on your calendar (October 23) and stay tuned for more details on how to get your company involved with our conference!

I only have one more month to write this letter from the president. I'm hoping we have kept our members informed throughout this year and that we have continued to bring you education, networking and fun activities.

Your President,
Donna Cimino

Next Meeting: **May 8** Annual Award Luncheon

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 8, at the County Club of Peoria.

Meal: Cobb Salad
Mud Pie

It has been an exciting year as Director of Awards. We have revamped the nominating process and have received many applications of well qualified women. I am so encouraged as I read through the applications to know what great company I am in when I attend the Women in Leadership meetings. The three judges have also noted what great applicants they have to choose from. This has not been an easy process for them. Words do not do justice to the energy that we create - our guests all comment on what a supportive, intelligent, and high energy group we are.

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SPECIAL REMINDERS:

- Remember to leave your name badge at the registration table upon departure.
- Reservations are required for ALL meetings.
- To help avoid congestion at the registration table, please have your cash or check made out to WIL in the amount of \$20.00 (Members) or \$25.00 (Guests). Payment is expected the day of the meeting.

Board of Directors

President:

Donna Cimino
dcimino@hbcpcas.com

Immediate Past President:

Emma Vandevener

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 member to the WIL family. We are excited to have you!

- Angela Fritch-Milton – Fritch Heating & Cooling

We're betting you know many women who would thank you for introducing them to WIL...invite them to the May meeting!!

As a reminder, if any of your contact information has changed (name, address, email, phone) please be sure to let us know so that you continue to receive all the WIL information. Email your updates to Beth Kolowski at beth@heart.net.

WIL Website

Check out your WIL Website (www.peoriawomeninleadership.com). How can we make it more informative for you, our members? Send your suggestions to Kathy Schaeffer (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!

May luncheon (cont'd)

I hope each of you understand what a great organization you have chosen to join and the great wealth of professionalism is at your disposal. I also encourage you to get involved as a committee member, be a greeter, or even become a board member to fully experience the benefits of our organization.

I am ready to burst at the seams to share with you who has been chosen as the recipients of our outstanding leaders. But I must wait until May 8th to reveal these hard working ladies. I hope you plan to attend to share in my excitement and celebrate these wonderful women.

The RSVP deadline is May 2. Please be sure to send your reservation form to Kathy Schaeffer (kls@ssinet.com) to reserve your place. To avoid cancellation fees (of the full luncheon amount) you are required to cancel by 12:00 noon on Friday, May 2. We look forward to seeing you at the May 8 luncheon/meeting at the Country Club of Peoria.

Birthday Auction & Door Prizes

Thank you to the following people who were generous in donating birthday auction items. Also thank you to the people who purchased those items. We raised a total of **\$195.00** to be used for scholarships.

- Tastefully Simple Fondue Set with Deserts donated by PJ Hagerdorn, Tastefully Simple *purchased by Jen Aguilar for \$65.00*
- Glass Platter donated by Betsy Yarcho, Envision Insurance Group *purchased by Shelli Cowser for \$70.00*
- Basket filled with wine, glasses and goodies donated by Robin Barnes, Peoria Civic Center *purchased by Jackie Feldman for \$60.00*

Door Prizes:

- Kathy Schaeffer, Stellar Systems – Insulated Coffee Mug
- Jeanne Buysee, American Family – Atlas
- PJ Hagerdorn, Tastefully Simple – Margarita Mix
- Kimberly Parham, Frontier Title – Kickapoo Creek Wine Bundle
- Amy Pearson, Hotel Pere Marquette – Orchid
- Ketra Mytich, Attorney – Book Authored by Ketra Mytich (2)
- Erika Brookhart, Cyrus Gifts & Home Accents – Shoe Fly Swatters (4)
- Roxanne Heiser, Aventine – Umbrella
- Carla Wingfield, Illinois Mutual – Umbrella
- Robin Barnes, Peoria Civic Center – Picture Frame

Luncheon Reservation

Just a few reminders about your luncheon reservation and the beautiful name badges.

As you know, payment is expected the day of the meeting. To help avoid congestion at the registration table, please have your cash or check ready and payable to WIL in the amount of \$20.00 (Members) or \$25.00 (Guests).

Cancellation policy: If you make a reservation for the luncheon and are unable to attend, cancellation must be received by noon on the Friday prior to the meeting date; if not, you are responsible for full payment of your reservation.

Name badges: Please remember to leave your name badge on the registration table upon departure. This will help ensure the badges don't get lost and that you have a badge at the next meeting.

If you have any questions about the reservation/registration process, please contact Kathy Schaeffer (kls@ssinet.com).

Calendar of Events

Date: Thursday, May 8

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Event: WIL Awards Banquet

Special Event: Plant Exchange

Date: Thursday, May 8

Location: Fired Up

Event: Pottery Painting

Cost: \$7 studio fee + cost of your piece

RSVP: May 1 to Amy Pearson

(apearson@hotelperemarquette.com)

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) 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!

Toot Your Horn April Announcements

- Congratulations to our 3 WIL members, Katie Arnholt Kim, Stacy Frederking, and Christine Schauble who recently graduated from the Chamber of Commerce 2008 Leadership School. The Leadership School is a ten-week program design to inform and educate business people in the Peoria area. Over the course of the program, students participate in seminars, field trips, and volunteer work in order to become more effective leaders. In addition to learning about the area’s rich history, students participate in group projects that tackle an issue or challenge facing the community. This was offered thru the Peoria Chamber of Commerce.
- Betsy Yarcho was recently appointed by the Mayor of Morton to fill and unexpired term as a Village Trustee for the Village of Morton. Her term will run until May 2009 and at that time she will need to seek re-election. She was honored to be selected and looks forward to serving the Village of Morton.

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 our next event.



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. Be sure to RSVP to Amy Pearson (apearson@hotelperemarquette.com or 671-9404) to reserve your space today! We'll see you there!

May 8, 2008

3rd Annual Plant Exchange

On May 8 we are holding our annual plant exchange. You can get as creative as you would like with your plant and container. We ask that your plant have a value of \$15-\$20. Don't forget to attach your business card so that the lucky recipient will know who to thank. Last year was so much fun as the room was filled with beautiful vibrant colors! I'm sure you will agree. I know I enjoyed watching my plant bloom all summer!



2007 Plant Exchange

Join us for this year's plant exchange on May 8, (price range of \$15-\$20). If you have any questions, please email Amy Pearson at apearson@hotelperemarquette.com.

Coming This Summer:

Get ready for an exciting LUAU!!!

When was the last time you did the limbo?!?!?

Grab your WIL girlfriends and come out for a fun night of relaxing by a luxurious pool and enjoy a delicious spread of food and tropical beverages! More details will be available soon!



WIL Annual Conference

So, have you blocked October 23 yet? If not stop reading, pull out your calendar and block the afternoon and evening so that you can join us for our exciting women's conference! The conference committee had their first meeting in March and what a great meeting it was. There are currently 21 WIL members who are serving on this conference committee, so it's sure to be a success!

We have made some great changes to the organizational structure of our committee which allows each volunteer the opportunity to sit on an area of the committee of their choice! This helps alleviate some of the time constraints many of us have. We are meeting monthly at Weaver Ridge, so you would like to serve in any capacity, please let Allison Vershaw (avershaw@marykay.com) or Shawna Knapp (shawnak@fgmarchitects.com) know and we'll provide you with the necessary details .

As we continue to make progress, we'll be sure to keep you all updated! Be sure to tell your friends and co-workers and bring them with you on October 23 at Weaver Ridge!



Here's a recap of the most recent WIL Night Out as they learned how to prepare fantastic appetizers.

A great time was had by all who attended. For those of you who couldn't make it to this event, be sure to join us on May 8 as we bring out our own unique style and creativity at Fired Up!

Items for Sale:

- 2002 Toyota Celica GT. Price: \$11,500, Mileage:53,000, Exterior: Silver, Interior: Charcoal, Body Style: Hatchback, Doors: Two Doors, Engine: 4 Cylinder Gasoline, Transmission: Automatic with Overdrive. For more information, please contact Emily Coyner: eferrell@sinnews.com or 369-9692



Happy Birthday to our members who are celebrating another wonderful year this month!

And to our Mothers...we tip our hats to you for your love, guidance, strength and encouragement! Happy Mother's Day!

A special thank you to Shelli Cowser and Emma Vandever for being our greeters at the April 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)

- 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

- May 27: Ruby Tuesday's (Westlake)
- June 24: Cyd's (Junction City)

Stacy Frederking

- May 20: Kelleher's
- June 17: Flat Top Grill
- July 22: Riverstation
- August 19: Copperworks
- September 23: Ponte Vecchio

Linda Martin

- 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)

- May 21: Uno's (Mark Twain Hotel)
- June 18: Rizzi's (Downtown)