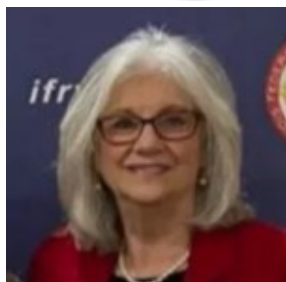




# IFRW TODAY

## Illinois Federation of Republican Women December 2024 Newsletter | [www.ifrw.org](http://www.ifrw.org)



**LANA SOLDAT**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas!

What an amazing year 2024 has been! From the primary to the general election and now to President Trump's appointments, it has been an exciting year to be a Republican.

Thanks to hardworking, politically astute IFRW members, IFRW is no longer the "best kept secret" in Illinois politics. IFRW members used their talents to campaign for Republican candidates, promote Republican principles, and educate our members and communities. With that in mind, IFRW has designed info cards as a recruiting tool for local clubs. IFRW's focus in 2025 will be to promote IFRW in communities and counties across Illinois. The info cards will be available for pickup at the upcoming 2025 Spring Conference Board Meeting, which will be announced in January.

At the IFRW Spring Conference we will be forming a Nominating Committee for the selection of Officers for 2026-2027. In addition, IFRW will be recognizing its members who are working as 2025 Lincoln Series Fellows, an IFRW supported candidate development program.

Please make plans for your local club to attend the IFRW Conferences/Board Meetings giving members the opportunity to network with sister clubs across Illinois and learn more about IFRW.

I am humbly honored to serve you. And, I thank you for all you do.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to you and yours.

I pray you are filled with peace, love and joy this holiday season and in the new year.

May God bless you, may God bless America, and may God bless Illinois.

Lana Soldat

### AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE RNC PRAYER CALLS

Greetings! You are invited to join members of the Republican National Committee and people of faith across America in praying for our nation.

As Republicans, we stand for faith, family, and religious liberty, but our nation is at a crossroads. Our prayer calls will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. ET.- (6:00 P.M. CT) Each month's prayer call features a special guest who shares his/her testimony, followed by prayer.

Please join us with the dial-in information below.

Dial-In: 866-253-8518 Passcode: 90241762#

Blessings,  
Rhonda Belford

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).*



**RHONDA BELFORD**

Hardin County Chairman  
President, Illinois  
Republican County  
Chairmen's Association  
12th Congressional  
District State Central  
Committeewoman  
RNC Committeewoman

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### Carroll County RW Supports Law & Order



As a Thanksgiving Caring for America project, Carroll County Republican Women showed their appreciation for the Carroll County Police by presenting them with a platter of home cooked pastries.

The local club supports the police and first responders and are ready to help them whenever there is a need.

L to R: Club VP Diane Bradbury, Club President Karen Funk, Carroll County officers, and Deb Peterson.

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### Upper NW Illinois RW Donates to Deployed 333rd Military Police



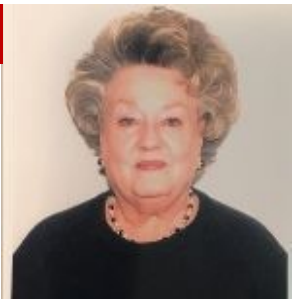
The 333rd Military Police Company is based in Freeport, Illinois

UNIRW joined a citywide effort to provide aid to the 333rd Military Police Company (including 62 soldiers) who were deployed Thursday, September 19, to Alaska for National security purposes.

The Mayor's office sent donated items, including toiletries, hand warmers, snacks, wool socks, and batteries, to Alaska to help the soldiers brave the frigid winter conditions. Please pray for our military men and women.

## IFRW CHAPLAIN CORNER

We celebrate the birth of Jesus, Who gave up His life for our salvation. He lived His life to be our help in times of difficulty. At times He doesn't remove our problems, but rather walks with us building our faith. (See Psalm 55 and Matthew 11).



**LINDA HERNANDEZ**  
**1ST V. PRESIDENT**  
[Chaplain]  
[Membership Chair]

## MEMBERSHIP TIP

Membership Tip: Plan your programs wisely.  
Good speakers can serve to increase membership!



**CARITINA MAYER**  
**IFRW TREASURER**

## DON'T FORGET! Pay Your Club Dues by January 1!

To lessen Caritina's workload, **Mary Sundermeyer** (Peoria County RW) has been appointed "Assistant Treasurer". Send renewing/new membership information to:

**MARY SUNDERMEYER:** Email: [mscunder@aol.com](mailto:mscunder@aol.com)

cc: Caritina Mayer and Linda Hernandez, IFRW Membership Chair  
on your membership email correspondence.

**REMINDER! DEADLINE FOR CLUB DUES IS JANUARY 1ST.**  
Send your club dues to **Caritina Mayer:** Email: [frwtreasurercm@gmail.com](mailto:frwtreasurercm@gmail.com)



# IFRW Fall Conference - Friday Night 'Welcome Reception' RW Celebrate the MAGA 2024 GOP VICTORY!

The Illinois Federation of Republican Women met November 15-16 in East Peoria to host a successful statewide event for membership.

The conference kicked off with a Patron's Thank-you Reception to acknowledge and thank the Illinois FRW patrons for their support. Later in the evening, a welcome reception for members and guests included special speakers and a fun "photo booth" to liven up the party.



IFRW Patron Reception



East Peoria Mayor John Kahl



Corey Allen, Vice Chair  
Tazewell County GOP



IFRW 2nd VP Diane Jordan  
Fall Conference Coordinator



IFRW Executive Committee joins in the fun!



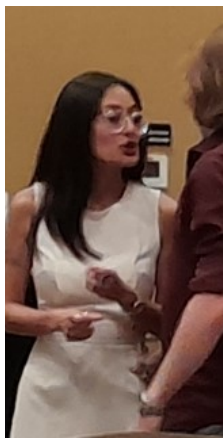
IFRW President Lana Soldat with Upper NW Illinois RW



IFRW Legislative Chair Linda Johnson selected the music playlist for the IFRW Fall Conference. The most popular request was YMCA!







RW listen to Special Speakers at the Friday Night Welcome Reception



Northern Illinois RW

## IFRW Fall Conference Saturday Board Meeting, Guest Speakers

On Saturday, after the Illinois FRW Board of Directors Meeting, members heard from **Rhonda Belford**, Illinois RNC Committeewoman, and **Kathy Salvi**, Illinois GOP Chair. Club officers also participated in breakout sessions that were led by IFRW Executive Committee members.

An exciting panel discussion of political pundits called "**The Smoke-Filled Room**," hosted by **Collin Corbett** and **Michael Butler** discussed statewide Illinois politics. A special panel of "**New Generation of Republicans**" spoke enthusiastically to members at the end of the day, giving everyone a renewed hope for the future of Illinois turning "**RED**."







Morning breakfast gave IFRW members time to network, meet, and catch up with old friends. Several made it a point to arrive early to check out the IFRW Silent Auction items. Proceeds from the auction helped defray the cost of the IFRW Fall Conference.













## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### Rock Island County RW - Macon County RW Officer Installations



Macon County officer installation - PRESIDENT, Jennifer Iberra



# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## Tazewell County RW Election Celebration



There was a huge turnout for Tazewell County RW's Nov. 11th Election Celebration! Attendees donated a large amount of paper products for Tazewell County's Veterans Assistance Commission. VAC's Veterans group presented the "13 folds of the flag".

A photo booth, silent auction, Trump raffle prizes, membership drive, lots of music made for a fun evening! Club President Diane Jordan had all 4 generations of her family in one picture! The little guys T-shirts said "Toddlers for Trump"!



### Illinois Republican Party Chair Kathy Salvi

#### OUR WORK ISN'T DONE! GET OUT THE VOTE!



KATHY SALVI

The 2024 General Election was nothing short of historic. Across the country we saw a resounding victory for Republican. Here in Illinois, a majority of our counties shifted towards the Republican Party!

The outcome wasn't just about the numbers; it was about the people—people like you—who stood up and said, "Enough is enough."

As I reflect on this achievement, I am overwhelmed with gratitude thinking about the hardworking families in small towns and big cities alike who believed in the vision for a better Illinois. Farmers, small business owners, teachers, police officers—all of you who came together to demand change.

This was momentum not just for a party, but for the principles that make America great. It was a statement that we are ready to restore safety to our communities, opportunity to our economy, and trust in our government. And while the Democrats continue to double down on their failed policies, we now have the momentum and the mandate to chart a new course for Illinois.

Kathy Salvi  
Illinois Republican Party Chair

### Club News and Photos Are Needed for IFRW Website & Newsletter

Monthly photo submissions are needed for the IFRW Spotlight webpage and the monthly IFRW Today newsletter (NOTE: Club news can be submitted to NFRW Club Spotlight as well.)

By your sharing club projects and activities, other clubs can incorporate your club's ideas in their own communities.

Be sure to include the CLUB NAME and a short description with the photo.

Submit your articles and photos via:  
Email (rdlein@aol.com)  
Text (815-297-2918)



**DEB LEININGER**  
**3RD VICE PRESIDENT**  
[Bylaws Chair]  
[Communications Chair]  
[IFRW Newsletter & Event Photographer]





We invite you to become an

## IFRW Patron Member

IFRW provides an avenue for women to influence policy, develop candidates, and elect leaders in Illinois.

For more information and to donate...  
Log on to IFRW.org.

*Thank you for your support!*



**reminder**

The **red donation button** has been activated on our website.

Go to <https://ifrw.org/donate/> to check it out!

Encourage club members, associate members, elected officials, County GOP Central Committees, community businesses, and fellow Republicans to consider donating to IFRW's cause—educating and electing Republican Women to office!

- **Achievement Awards** are available on the NFRW website (<https://www.nfrw.org/drl-awards>)
- **NFRW Faith Coalition Zoom Meeting:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 8:00 p.m. EST.

<https://nfrw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcuitrDsoGtZ57jKbbDd0C7Ez0s99jRt5#/registration>

## Local Club Yearend Review

Has your club made a 2025 budget to present to the club membership for approval in January or February? Your club bylaws specify when budget approval is required, and who is responsible for preparing the proposal.

Some clubs have a Finance Committee which prepares the budget, and other clubs place the task on the Club President or another officer. In any case, the Treasurer plays an important role by providing historical data on income and expenses. And, it is helpful in the planning process to review actual income and expenses for 2023 and 2024. If you have any questions, please contact IFRW Treasurer, Caritina Mayer.

### Programs: A Year in Review

Now is the perfect time to review your club's successes and programs areas that need more attention. Please keep in mind that great programs are the catalyst to help your club's membership grow! Here are some tips for your club's 2024 review.

#### Did your local club:

- meet IFRW & NFRW Achievement Award program requirements?
- offer a variety of informative speakers and projects to maintain an active membership and draw new members to your meetings?
- invite an IFRW Executive Officer to speak at one of your meetings?

As your club transitions to 2025, encourage the outgoing Program Chair to help the new Program Chair arrange the first speaker in 2025. Take time to encourage and uplift each other. Success is a team effort!

Merry Christmas!

## BECOME A 2025 PATRON



### CHALLENGE TO LOCAL CLUBS!

**Become an IFRW Patron  
with an annual  
contribution of \$100!**

Club contributions to the Patron program enable IFRW to bring great speakers and training sessions to our bi-annual conferences.

**TAKE THE CHALLENGE!**  
**\$100 Individual or Club Donation**





# LEADERSHIP

## Illinois Federation of Republican Women

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Lana Soldat**  
1st Vice President: **Linda Hernandez**  
2nd Vice President: **Diane Jordan**  
3rd Vice President: **DebLeininger**  
4th Vice President: **Jennifer Yborra**  
Secretary: **Beth Provost**  
Treasurer: **Caritina Mayer**  
Immediate Past President: **Jayne Lehman Raef**

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Bylaws: **Deb Leininger**  
Campaign & Political Activities: **Diane Bradbury**  
Fundraising: **Jennifer Yborra**  
Legislation: **Linda Johnson**  
Membership: **Linda Hernandez**  
Public Relations: **Deb Leininger**

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Chaplain: **Linda Hernandez**  
Proxy Chair: **Diane Bradbury**  
Parliamentarian: **Susan Wynn Bence**  
Assistant Treasurer: **Mary Sundermeyer**

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Achievement Awards: **Karen Funk**  
Americanism: **Rachael Crandall**  
Armed Services: **Amy Buss**  
Budget: **Robin McConnell**  
Caring for America: **Lori Owen**  
Hospitality: **Diane Bradbury**  
Literacy / MELP: **Kathleen Glaze**  
Scholarship: **Jo Caulkins**  
Database Management:  
**Karen Funk & Mary Sundermeyer**  
Youth Outreach: **Angela Shippert**

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District 1: **TBA: Cook**

District 2: **TBA:** McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, DeKalb, **York**

District 3: **Carol Webber:** Kendall, Will, LaSalle, Grundy, **Kankakee**

District 4: **Carolyn Wells:** Boone, **Bureau, Carroll**, Mercer, Henry,  
**Jo Daviess, Lee**, Ogle, **Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago**

District 5: **Stefanie Tarr:** Henderson, Warren, **Tazewell**, Knox, Stark, **Peoria**,  
Putnam, Marshall, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Woodford,

District 6: **Norma Truax:** Livingston, **Iroquois**, McLean, **Champaign**,  
**Vermilion**, Ford, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Cumberland, Clark

District 7: **Cindy Gleason:** Adams, Schuyler, Mason, **Logan**, DeWitt, Brown,  
Cass, Menard, **Macon**, Piatt, Sangamon, Pike, Morgan, Scott, Christian,  
Moultrie, Shelby

District 8: **Melissa Waddell:** Greene, Macoupin, Montgomery, Calhoun,  
Jersey, Madison, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Clay, **Crawford**,  
Wayne, Lawrence, **Saint Clair**, Clinton, **Marion**, Edwards, Richland, Wabash

District 9: **Sue Hamilton:** Monroe, Washington, Jefferson, Perry, Hamilton,  
White, Randolph, Jackson, Franklin, **Williamson**, Saline, Gallatin, Union,  
Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski, Massac

\* Highlighted counties denote active local clubs

### LOCAL CLUBS & PRESIDENTS

#### Bureau County Republican Women

(Bureau County)  
Club President: **Sue Pratt**  
Email: [sepratt126@gmail.com](mailto:sepratt126@gmail.com)

#### Carroll County Republican Women

(Carroll County)  
Club President: **Karen Funk**  
Email: [kfunk1811@protonmail.com](mailto:kfunk1811@protonmail.com)

#### Chicago Republican Women's Network

(Chicago Region)  
Club President: **Katheryn Gallanis Matern**  
Email: [kathygmatern@icloud.com](mailto:kathygmatern@icloud.com)

#### Crawford County Republican Women

(Crawford County)  
Club President: **Rikki Callaway**  
Email: [callaway8220@gmail.com](mailto:callaway8220@gmail.com)

#### Iroquois Republican Women's Club

(Iroquois County)  
Club President: **Jamie Bakken**  
Email: [jamie@whporadio.com](mailto:jamie@whporadio.com)

#### Kankakee County Republican Women

(Kankakee County)  
President: **Carol Webber**  
Email: [cwebber@retiree.kcc.edu](mailto:cwebber@retiree.kcc.edu)

#### Logan County Republican Women

(Logan County)  
Club President: **Elizabeth Davis-Kavelman**  
Email: [bethkavelman@gmail.com](mailto:bethkavelman@gmail.com)

#### Macon County Republican Women

(Macon County)  
Club President: **Jennifer Yborra**  
Email: [jayborra@comcast.net](mailto:jayborra@comcast.net)

#### Northern Illinois Republican Women

(Winnebago County)  
Club President: **Carolyn Wells**  
Email: [carolyndesiah@gmail.com](mailto:carolyndesiah@gmail.com)

#### Peoria County Republican Women

(Peoria County)  
Club President: **Stefanie Tarr**  
Email: [stefanietarr2017@gmail.com](mailto:stefanietarr2017@gmail.com)

#### Champaign County Republican Women

(Champaign County)  
Club President: **Dr. Susan Mantell**  
Email: [doc@cfvh.org](mailto:doc@cfvh.org)

#### Republican Women of the North Shore

(Cook & Lake Counties)  
Club President: **Gloria Giorno**  
Email: [Gloria@gloriagiorno.com](mailto:Gloria@gloriagiorno.com)

#### Rock Island County Republican Women

(Rock Island County)  
Club President: **Roxanne Croegaert**  
Email: [rcroegaert@gmail.com](mailto:rcroegaert@gmail.com)

#### St. Clair County Republican Women

(St. Clair County)  
Club President: **Mary Thurman**  
Email: [mompower49@hotmail.com](mailto:mompower49@hotmail.com)

#### Sauk Vally Republican Women

(Lee & Whiteside Counties)  
President: **Rachel Crandall**  
Email: [rcrandall01@gmail.com](mailto:rcrandall01@gmail.com)

#### Tazewell County Republican Women

(Tazewell County)  
President: **Diane Jordan**  
Email: [dkjordan20@gmail.com](mailto:dkjordan20@gmail.com)

#### Upper Northwest Illinois Republican Women

(Stephenson & Jo Daviess Counties)  
President: **Deb Leininger**  
Email: [rdlein@aol.com](mailto:rdlein@aol.com)

#### Vermilion County Republican Women

(Vermilion County)  
President: **Robyn Heffern**  
Email: [robyneffern@yahoo.com](mailto:robyneffern@yahoo.com)

#### Williamson County Republican Women

(Williamson County)  
President: **Sue Hamilton**  
Email: [jshamilton02@gmail.com](mailto:jshamilton02@gmail.com)

#### York Township Republican Women Org.

(DuPage County)  
President: **Deanna Wilkins**  
Email: [deanna@wilkinsconstruction.com](mailto:deanna@wilkinsconstruction.com)

