



# IFRW TODAY

**Illinois Federation of Republican Women**  
**March 2024 Newsletter**  
**[www.ifrw.org](http://www.ifrw.org)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**LANA SOLDAT**

March is Primary Election Month!

Have you felt the excitement in the air this campaign season? Super Tuesday is March 5, which means the most states go to the polls. And, the Illinois Primary is Tuesday, March 19, 2024. March will prove to be a turning point. Let's Get Out The Vote! I

FRW is looking forward to the upcoming April 5-6 Spring Conference in East Peoria. Have you registered? Have you reserved your room? Hope to see you there! With inspiring speakers, break out sessions for members, informational booths, networking with friends and much more....you won't want to miss this year's

conference.

Keep working in your local clubs. We need Republicans in Illinois to step up and serve. Ask others to join you at your next club meeting.

The Illinois Republican State Convention is May 24-25, 2024 in Collinsville. Are you interested in being a delegate to the convention? Ask your County Republican Chairman how YOU can become a delegate. Now is a great time to be a Republican!

**Thank you for the honor of serving you.**  
**In God We Trust,**  
**LANA SOLDAT**

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## The Yellow Suffrage Rose

IFRW members have asked, "What does the yellow rose in the IFRW Logo symbolize?" The yellow rose stands for women's suffrage,

In 1920, suffragists and anti-suffragists met in Nashville, Tennessee to lobby the state legislature for and against ratifying the 19th Amendment, which would give women the right to vote.

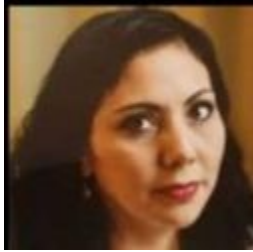
Lobbying on both sides was intense – Tennessee would either be the needed 36th state to ratify the amendment for it to become law or to reject ratification and ensure the fight continued.

Both sides wore rose-shaped pins to indicate which side of the battle they were on. Supporters of suffrage wore yellow roses in public. Those opposed to suffrage wore red.



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Keep your membership current by paying your dues to your local club.  
Don't forget to send new membership dues and information to me throughout the year.  
Questions? Contact Caritina!



**CARITINA MAYER**  
IFRW TREASURER  
ifrwtreasurercm@gmail.com

## 2024 IFRW LEADERSHIP

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT:** Lana Soldat  
**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** Linda Hernandez  
**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** Diane Jordan  
**3RD VICE PRESIDENT:** Debbie Leininger  
**4TH VICE PRESIDENT:** Jennifer Yborra  
**SECRETARY:** Beth Provost

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**TREASURER:** Caratina Mayer  
**BYLAWS:** Debbie Leininger  
**CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:** Diane Bradbury  
**FUNDRAISING:** Jennifer Yborra  
**LEGISLATION:** Linda Johnson  
**MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH:** Linda Hernandez

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:** Karen Funk  
**AMERICANISM:** Rachael Crandall  
**ARMED SERVICES:** Amy Buss  
**BUDGET:** Robin McConnel  
**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

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

**CHAPLAIN:** Linda Hernandez  
**HISTORIAN:** TBA

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Susan Wynn Bence  
**PROTOCOL:** Linda Hernandez

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1:** TBA: Cook  
**DISTRICT 2:** TBA: McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, DeKalb  
**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, Vermillion, 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:** Barb Viviano: 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

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# BUILDING STRONG LEADERS FOR ILLINOIS

## YOU CAN BE A DELEGATE TO THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

### WHAT IS THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION?

It's a place for Republicans who vote in the Republican Primary election or affiliate with the Republican Party to define our shared beliefs and to determine how we will promote them. Republicans do this by: 1) creating a "Party Platform" 2) setting rules and 3) electing people to run the Party between State Conventions.

### WHO CAN ATTEND THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION?

Anyone who is affiliated with the Republican Party by voting in the Party Primary or by becoming a delegate to the Convention.

### WHAT IS A DELEGATE?

Delegates are grassroots Republicans who participate in shaping the Republican Party and determining the Party's role and direction regarding public policy. Delegates volunteer and are chosen by the Republican County Chairs to attend the Republican State Convention in even-numbered years.

### STEP 1—COUNTY CONVENTION

County Conventions will be held on April 17, 2024. Each County Party sets the location and time. Only elected precinct committeemen vote at the County Convention. They elect the Delegates to the State Convention. In the days/weeks before the County Convention, visit committee meetings and let them know what issues are important to you.

### STEP 2—STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention will be held in Collinsville, Illinois from May 24-25th. Committees will meet May 24th. General Session will meet May 25th. Please check [www.il.gop](http://www.il.gop) for Convention details. Attendees will be able to speak before committees about issues they care about, vote on the Party Platform that will state the beliefs of the Party, vote on the rules that will steer the Illinois Republican Party, and elect people to lead the Republican Party for the next two years.

### WHY BECOME A ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN PARTY DELEGATE?

Because **YOU** will have a role in shaping the beliefs and direction of the Illinois Republican Party and determining public policy implementation.

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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT



### Kankakee County Republican Women (KCRW) Donate \$4500 to Momence High School Honor Guard



**NFRW Armed Services project:** Kankakee County Republican Women proudly continues to support the Momence High School Honor Guard. The Honor Guard is composed exclusively of Momence High School honor roll students who are direct descendants of veterans. Founded in 1996 by William Cotter, the Momence Honor Guard has provided military rites at hundreds of military veteran funerals. The donated funds are used to provide uniforms for this elite group of students.

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# CLUB BYLAWS

The IFRW Bylaws Committee will be undergoing a Bylaws review this spring to sync with NFRW's bylaws. The updated IFRW bylaws will be posted on the IFRW website. Local clubs should review their bylaws and make any necessary changes. Updated bylaws must be submitted to the IFRW Executive Board for approval.

## COMMUNICATIONS / NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE

### PICTURES MAKE YOUR NEWSLETTERS POP!

Photos capture the feeling and emotion of an event and tell a story. Don't let your club's activities be just a mental memory. Preserve the history of your club by appointing designated member(s) to take photos during club meetings and special events. Don't forget to take a picture of the designated photographer(s) too. Identify the people in the photos for the benefit of future members.

#### REMEMBER:

Group pictures are fine, but not all the time. Mix it up with both large and small group pictures. Action pictures are best! When two or more members take photos, someone is apt to 'capture that special moment'.

Monthly photo submissions are needed for the IFRW Spotlight webpage ([www.ifrw.org](http://www.ifrw.org)) as well as the IFRW Today newsletter. You can also post your club news on the NFRW Club Spotlight page ([www.NFRW.org](http://www.NFRW.org)).

Be sure to include the CLUB NAME and a short description with the photo.  
photos via email ([rdlein@aol.com](mailto:rdlein@aol.com)) or Text (815-297-2918)

**ALSO, CHECK OUT THE NEW IFRW WEBPAGE! ([WWW.IFRW.ORG](http://WWW.IFRW.ORG))**



**DEBBIE LEININGER**  
**3RD VICE PRESIDENT**  
*[Bylaws Chair, Public Relations  
and Communications Chair]*

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## IFRW ACTION ALERTS

To keep IFRW members informed and pro-active on Illinois General Assembly legislation and issues, an Illinois Federation of Republican Women ACTION ALERT will be sent out as needed.

ACTION ALERTS inform the membership concerning Legislative Bills and Actions, Witness Slips, Signing Petitions, and making call to legislators to influence pending legislation.

Be sure to forward the IFRW ACTION ALERTS onto your friends, family, and associates and encourage them to voice their opinions to their elected officials. Let IFRW'S voice be heard in Springfield!

*An informed citizenry is the only true repository of the public will. ~ Thomas Jefferson*



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## IFRW OFFICERS ATTEND ILLINOIS GOP GALA



Illinois Federation of Republican Women were well represented at the Illinois GOP Gala in Rosemont.  
L to R: Linda Hernandez, Jayne Lehman Raef, Lana Soldat, Diane Jordan, Jennifer Yborra

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## IFRW CHAPLAIN CORNER

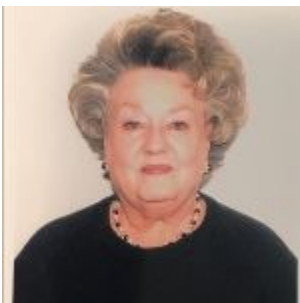
“The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16)

America was forged by men and women who believed in fervent prayer. The adjective “fervent” has largely been lost today. Let us recapture fervent prayer as we ask for God’s wisdom and guidance in returning this nation to the godly values upon which we were founded.

## MEMBERSHIP TIP

Growing club membership is important. However, it is equally important to give attention to maintaining the current base. Successful clubs encourage personal involvement and provide an environment where members know they are needed and valued. This will go a long way in solidifying the base.

Energized club officers and committee chairs are key in developing and maintaining a successful club.



**LINDA HERNANDEZ**  
**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**  
*[Chaplain, Membership Chair]*

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## REMINDER! Club Baskets for the Silent Auction

This is a reminder for All Club Presidents and all Executive Committee Officers to bring a silent auction item or basket for the IFRW Spring Conference Silent Auction. The proceeds bring in much needed funds to pay for the Spring Conference and IFRW operating expenses.

Questions? Contact Jennifer at: [jayborra@comcast.net](mailto:jayborra@comcast.net)



**JENNIFER YBORRA**  
IFRW FUNDRAISING CHAIR



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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT



### UPPER NORTHWEST ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

UNIRW members donated long underwear, soup, and essentials to the Stephenson County Veteran Assistance Commission. Remembering our veterans is an ongoing UNIRW **Caring for America project** to honor veterans for their service and let them know that we care for them!

The Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) is a county agency that provides assistance to qualified Stephenson County veterans. Even though the VAC helps veterans file VA claims, it is not associated with the VA. VAC welcomes donated items to stock the “footlocker” supplementing county veterans’ basic needs.



# ILLINOIS PRIMARY ELECTION - March 19



The 2024 Illinois Primary Election is Tuesday, March 19. Early voting began in early February. Be an informed voter. Learn about the candidates before you go into the voting booth, not deciding which name looks best. If you are unable to find candidate information, ask your county chairman about them. The county chairman's name and contact information is listed on the Republican County Chair Association

website ([www.rcca.gop](http://www.rcca.gop))



## LEGISLATIVE/TAKING ACTION

### WITNESS SLIPS

#### WHAT IS A WITNESS SLIP?

An Illinois House or Senate Bill must pass through a Committee to advance on to the General Assembly for a vote. Hearings are called while the bill is in Committee. This is when a witness slip comes into play.

A witness slip is a person's or group's position on a particular bill that can be filed on behalf of that person or an organization they are representing. Because witness slips can influence the outcome of a committee vote, that is why it is important to file them.

#### IMPORTANT!

Please note that alerts are sent out to file witness slips as soon as the hearing is called for a bill. When you receive an alert, please fill out the witness slip as soon as possible. We cannot control how many days that are given to fill out the slips. The window to do so is at times very short. We apologize if you have attempted to fill out a witness slip, and it was too late. We try our best to get them out as fast as we can.

Here is the status of the bills that we are watching.

**HB4876:** Abortion/gender affirming care This bill amends the Abused Neglected Child Reporting Act to re-define "abused child" as it relates to abortion, medical care, gender confirming services. This bill has been referred to committee.

**HB2401:** Amends the School Code mandating books by diverse authors..... This bill has been assigned to Elementary and Secondary Education School Curriculum and Policies committee.

**HB4133:** Mandates bullying prevention programs in non-public, sectarian Schools. This bill has been assigned to the Elementary and Secondary Education School Curriculum and Policies committee.



Being informed to effect a change,

**LINDA JOHNSON**  
**LEGISLATION CHAIR**

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## IFRW BOOK NOOK

### “HOW TO RAISE A CONSERVATIVE DAUGHTER”

By Michelle Easton

Receiving presidential honors from President Ronald Reagan and President George W. Bush to serve at the U.S. Department of Education, Michelle Easton has a passion to influence the next generation of girls. She is the Founder of the Claire Booth Luce Center, an agency that honors successful conservative women and also mentors young girls and women for excellence.

“Our children won’t be conservatives by osmosis,” she states.

CHAPTER TITLES INCLUDE: 1) Self Worth Flows from God, not from the Government 3) America Is Exceptional and Worth Defending 11) Know the History of America’s Great Conservative Women Leaders

Mothers and grandmothers finally have an exceptional tool to read together! But watch out. Strong girls and women will be developed as a result! Let us know what you think about this book.



**KATHLEEN GLAZE**

**LITERACY & MELP COMMITTEE CHAIR**

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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT



### **CARROLL COUNTY HOSTS 17TH CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES Q & A**

Carroll County Republican Women hosted 17th District Congressional Candidates at their monthly luncheon meeting. Both Members and Associate Members attend the meetings.



# Become a Patron Member

This **special sponsorship program** helps IFRW complete its mission by giving direct financial support to the organization year-round.

Since its founding in 1940, the Illinois Federation of Republican Women has championed the cause of engaging, educating, and empowering women in the political process and providing a forum for women to serve as leaders in the political, government, and civic arenas.

This sustaining members program plays a key role in helping IFRW fulfill its primary mission of bringing more women to the table. The generous contributions of our Patron Members help us accomplish this mission by:

- 1) *Providing operating capital which allows the IFRW to maintain a low general membership rate, making membership affordable to women of all ages and economic backgrounds, and*
- 2) *Financially supporting a wide range of IFRW education initiatives, training programs, special projects, net working events and other activities that help Republican Women stay informed, develop skills, and achieve their goals at the grassroots, state, and national levels.*

## Patron Membership Application FY 20\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: IFRW  
Mail to: Caritina Mayer, 699 S. Blackhawk  
Blvd, Rockton, IL 61072

☐ Patron Membership - \$100

### Join Today

Play a greater role at the state level and help invest in the future of Republican women.  
Join as an IFRW Patron/Sustaining Member by mailing your check today!

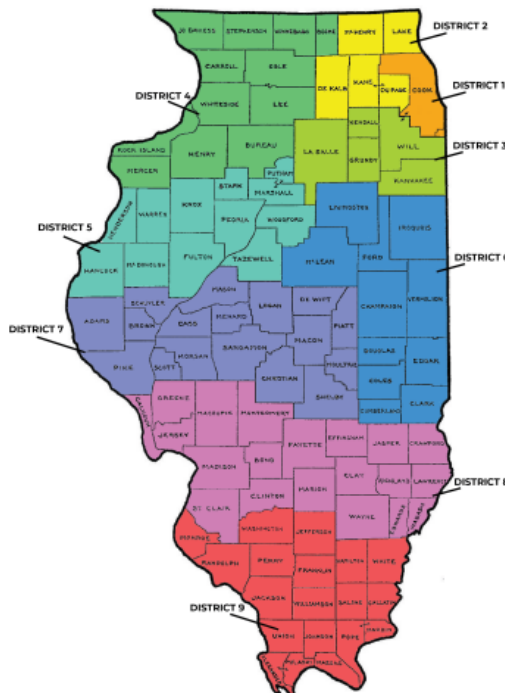
Questions? Contact Lana Soldat  
at 815-499-5481

*Thank you!*

We invite you to join us today as a  
**Patron Member**

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

*Thank you for your support!*



# IFRW

ILLINOIS FEDERATION  
\* \* \* of \* \* \*  
Republican Women



Educating, Engaging and Empowering  
Women Since 1940

[www.ifrw.org](http://www.ifrw.org)



# Leadership Conference/Board Meeting

## 'Spring Forward to Victory!'

**April 5 - 6, 2024**

**Holiday Inn & Suites - East Peoria**

101 Holiday St. | East Peoria, Illinois 61611 | 309-698-3333

**Friday Night: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Welcome Reception

"Meet & Greet" Elected Officials & Candidates

**Saturday: 7:30 - 3:00**

Group Picture & Professional Headshots for Those Interested  
(Everyone's Encouraged to Wear Red)

Guest Speakers, Elected Officials, Candidates, Panel Discussions  
Training Sessions, and Networking Opportunities

### **Cost**

\$50 members | \$60 non-members

Late registration for members \$60 after March 15

A block of rooms at the Holiday Inn & Suites has been reserved for IFRW members.

### **Registration Form**

**Send application & check payable to IFRW to:**

IFRW Treasurer Caritina Mayer, 699 S. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton, IL 61072

### **Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

Club: \$100 | Bronze \$250 | Silver: \$500 | Gold: \$1,000

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois Federation of Republican is a tax-exempt organization and is not tax-deductible.