



IFRW TODAY

Illinois Federation of Republican Women
April 2024 Newsletter
www.ifrw.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LANA SOLDAT

Welcome Spring! Can you feel it in the air? A time for renewal, growth and hope. There is evidence of new beginnings everywhere—the blooming spring flowers, the warmer temperatures, and the budding trees. This is a beautiful time of the year!

For IFRW, April 2024 means preparing for our upcoming **Spring Leadership Conference on April 5-6 in East Peoria at the Holiday Inn Suites**. We have a full schedule planned for you. Friday's Welcome Reception will kick off the weekend with great food, meeting/greeting elected officials and candidates in the area, as well as networking with Republican friends across the state. Saturday's

schedule has us conducting important business in our Board of Director's Meeting and learning more about the Executive Committee's 2024-2025 Action Plan; hearing from great speakers; participating in round "Table Talks" for officers and committee chairs; and learning more about the "Road to the Convention" from the Illinois Republican County Chairman Association President, **Rhonda Belford**, who is also the State Central Committee Woman from District 12.

Thank you for the honor of serving you on our Executive Committee.
And... I am looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference!

In God We Trust,
Lana Soldat, President
Illinois Federation of Republican Women

IFRW MISSION STATEMENT

The Illinois Federation of Republican Women promotes the principles of the Republican Party; works to elect Republican candidates; informs the public through political education; and increases the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.

PURPOSES OF THE IFRW

- To unite the Republican women of the State for the purpose of building the Republican Party through educational and political activities;
- To support the objectives and purposes of the NFRW, the Republican National and State Committees, and to work for the election of Republican Party nominees;
- To encourage, promote and educate Republican women to run for elected office; and
- To disseminate information to all local s.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Carroll County Republican Women Who serve as Precinct Committeemen Helped Raise over \$3,000 at Carroll County's Republican Lincoln Day Dinner's Gun Raffle

Carroll County Republican Women who also serve as Carroll County Republican Central Committeemen helped with preparations for the March 2nd Carroll County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner. Members brought desserts, decorated the hall, and worked the registration table.

Club member/Precinct Committeemen Diane Bradbury coordinated a gun raffle for the event that raised over \$3,000 for the Carroll County Central Committee.

Lincoln Day Dinners present opportunities to meet legislators, candidates, and make contacts with those who will help build the Republican Party in Illinois.

Presently eight members of Carroll County Republican Women serve on the Carroll County Central Committee as elected or appointed precinct committeemen. IFRW President Lana Soldat also serves as Carroll County Republican Central Committee Chairman.



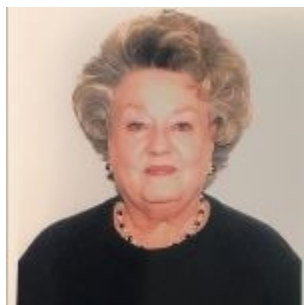
IFRW CHAPLAIN CORNER

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). Jesus also said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

It's popular and politically correct to believe there are many paths to God. Jesus said He is the way. As we celebrate Easter, let us reflect on Christ, His resurrection and our path to salvation, and how He suffered terribly for each of us.

MEMBERSHIP TIP

It amazes me how many people have not heard of our clubs or the IFRW. Let's be creative and look for ideas on how to publicize our organization. Each club should be sharing their respective newsletters with all other club presidents. These newsletters should contain activities, speakers, etc. share your ideas with each other. We can help each other grow our membership



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



IFRW Represented at NFRW Legislative Day/Board Meeting



IFRW President **Lana Soldat** was among 150 Republican Women Leaders who attended the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) Legislative Day/Spring Board Meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on March 14, 2024.

Meetings were held on the Senate side of the Capitol Visitor's Center and in the Russell Senate Office Building. The afternoon session was held in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room and featured Senator Katie Boyd Britt (R-AL) as the keynote

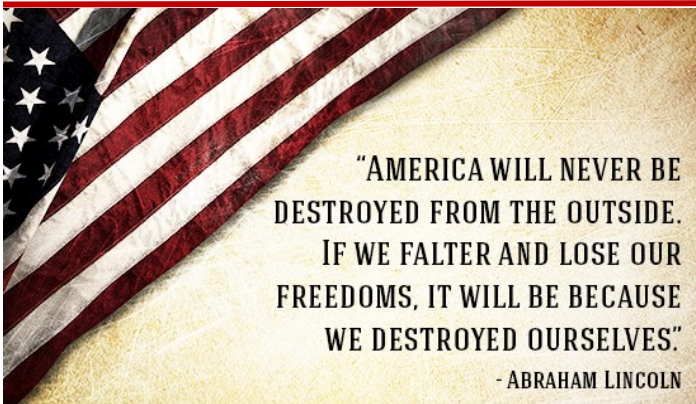
speaker.

In their first trip to the Hill since pre-Covid 2018, Republican women dressed in signature red had an opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives, and participated in briefings and advocacy efforts.

This year's Legislative Priorities include: **Border and Immigration, Economy, Parental Rights** (Education, Healthcare, Upbringing), and **Keep Nine on the Supreme Court**.

Members can access print and digital media on the NFRW priorities by visiting the Legislation and Research Resource Page on the NFRW webpage (www.nfrw.org).

Also in attendance was NFRW 3rd Vice President and former IFRW President Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman.



*If My people who are called by My name
will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and
turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH, RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM AND SUPPORT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS.

Communicating with your representatives and senators is important. As you build a relationship with them, they will know who you are, your scope of influence, and the standards you hold them to.

There are several ways to communicate with them.

- Call them, write them a letter, send an e-mail, get their newsletter, attend their rallies and public meetings, make an appointment with them and file witness slips regarding bills that are in a hearing.
- Get the information needed to contact them
- Go to ilga.gov. Click on House or Senate. After clicking on House/ Senate, all the names of the representatives/senators will be listed alphabetically along with the districts they represent. Click on your representative/senator's name, and you will see all needed contact information.
- Call to inquire if they have a newsletter and ask to be added to the mailing list.
- When communicating with a representative or senator, it is important to treat them with respect. Thank them for representing you and be appreciative of the work they are doing.
- Writing a personal letter holds more weight than signing your name to a pre-scripted letter. If you are writing regarding a certain topic or bill, be sure to include the bill number, what the bill is about, if you are a proponent or opponent of the bill, and why you are taking the stance that you are taking. Be sure to get to the point and not make the communication lengthy. If opposition with them please be polite and tactful with them.
- It is always good to support those who are in office. Support them by providing financial support, assisting in campaigns when needed, writing letters of appreciation, and praying for them.

"I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2).



Being informed to effect a change,

LINDA JOHNSON
LEGISLATION CHAIR

IFRW ACTION ALERTS

To keep IFRW members informed and pro-active on Illinois General Assembly legislation and issues, an IFRW 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!

Setting Club Achievement Goals

“Begin with the end in mind!” ~ Stephen Covey, author *“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.”*

What level of Club Achievement is your goal? Diamond? Gold? None of them? For purposes of this month’s article, I am assuming you want the Diamond Award. As my mom always said, whatever you are be a good one. So, we are going to set our sights on the DIAMOND level! Go BIG or go home!

Start by downloading the NFRW Achievement Awards information. The 2024-2025 Roadmap is not available yet, but use the old one to start your planning.

The Achievement Award is broken into 5 sections:

Club Function	Leadership Development
Membership Development	Campaign Activities
Programs	Community Relations

Each section awards points which are totaled up to achieve the different levels.

Diamond Award: 230 points+	Silver Award: 180-204 points
Gold Award: 205-229 points	Bronze Award: 150-179 points

So now the question is, “How do we get to 230 points in the next two years?” Hmm. Sounds daunting. How do you climb a mountain? Take a step. Let’s start with how many are you already achieving **WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT????** April’s goal: How many points are you earning already?



Karen Funk

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CHAIR

Call me with questions: 630-674-4665

Soldat Represents IFRW on Smoke-Filled Room

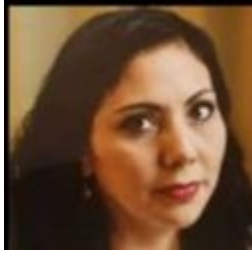


Women From Across the State Shared Their Insight on Illinois Politics—Smoke-Filled Room—Episode 42 ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))

The Smoke-Filled Room YouTube program equips center-right leaders like Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, statesmen who can lead us into the future.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Keep your membership current by paying your dues to your local .
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**
Treasurer: **Caritina Mayer**
Immediate Past President: **Jayne Lehman Raef**

Standing Committees

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

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: **Linda Hernandez**
Proxy Chair: **Diane Bradbury**
Parliamentarian: **Susan Wynnence**

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**

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 s

Local Clubs

Bureau County RW: President: **Sue Pratt**

Carroll County RW: President: **Patricia Anne Hiher**

Chicago RW's Network: President: **Katheryn Gallanis Matern**

Crawford County RW: President: **Rikki Callaway**

Iroquois County RW: President: **Jamie Bakken**

Kankakee County RW: President: **Carol Webber**

Logan County RW: President: **Elizabeth Davis-Kavelman**

Macon County RW: President: **Jennifer Yborra**

Northern Illinois RW: President: **Carolyn Wells**

Peoria County RW: President: **Stefanie Tarr**

RW of Champaign County: President: **Dr. Susan Mantell**

RW of Marion County: President: **Janet Carter Sullens**

RW of Rock Island County: President: **Roxanne Croegaert**

RW of St. Clair Co.: President: **Mary Thurman**

Sauk Vally RW: President: **Rachel Crandall**

Tazewell County RW: President: **Diane Jordan**

Upper Northwest Illinois RW: President: **Debbie Leininger**

Vermilion County RW: President: **Robyn Heffren**

Williamson County RW: President: **Sue Hamilton**

York Township RW Org.: President: **Deanna Wilkins**

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 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.

HISTORY OF NFRW

www.nfrw.org/history

The story of Republican women's clubs begins many years before women even had the right to vote. Inspired by the Republican Platform of 1872, which said: *"The Republican Party is mindful of its obligation to the loyal women of America for their noble devotion to the cause of Freedom ...,"* Republican women's clubs were off and running. In fact, the oldest such club on record was founded in Salt Lake City in the late 1800s.

Hundreds of independent Republican women's clubs grew up around the nation in the years to come. It was in 1938 that Marion Martin, assistant chairman of the Republican National Committee, called a meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago to organize these clubs into a national organization. At the age of 31, Joyce Arneill of Denver, Colorado, was elected the first president of the Federation, and the organization began to grow.

In its earliest days, the Federation was a lobbying group. In 1940, NFRW enlisted the support of its members to urge their representatives in Washington to hold free and open hearings and a full investigation on the amendments to the Wagner Labor Relations Act. They wrote their representatives during National Debt Week to impress them with the fact that constituents were concerned about the national debt. And on June 10, 1940, NFRW President Joyce Arneill sent a letter to all club presidents urging their help in keeping Congress in session until the immediate crisis of the "foreign situation" was past.

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: _____

Business: _____

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.
Help invest in the future of Republican women. Please join as an IFRW Patron Member by mailing your check today!*

Questions? Contact Lana Soldat
(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 MISSION STATEMENT

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ILLINOIS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women



Educating, Engaging & Empowering
Women Since 1940

Patron Membership