



# IFRW TODAY

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**LANA SOLDAT**

If the month of May is anything like the April 5-6 IFRW "Spring Forward to Victory" Spring Conference/Board meeting in East Peoria, it will be full of inspiration, positive, and great energy! It's always wonderful to get together with IFRW friends, share ideas, reenergize, and glean valuable information at conferences via the many motivating informational speakers.

Thank you to those who attended the conference. And to those who could not make it, mark the date for the upcoming November 15-16, 2024 Fall IFRW Conference.

April was a traveling month for me:

- 1) I was a guest speaker at Peoria County Republican Women and Crawford County Republican Women. Thank you to both clubs [Rikki Calloway, Crawford County RW President and Stefanie Tarr, Peoria County RW President] for their gracious hospitality.
- 2) On April 27, I attended the Illinois Republican State Central Committee Meeting on in LaSalle, Illinois representing IFRW. My message to the SCC: "IFRW is partners with the Illinois Republican Party to elect Republicans across the State of Illinois and the nation."

May is "Republican State Convention" month. The Illinois Republican State Convention is scheduled for May 24-25, 2024, in Collinsville, Illinois, where business will be conducted, training sessions will be offered, and networking will abound!

IFRW will be there with an informational booth, so stop by and say hello!

Convention delegates will vote for:

- RNC National Committeeman and Committeewoman;
- 10 At-Large Illinois Delegates and 10 At-Large Alternate-Delegates to the Republican National Committee Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from July 15-18, 2024, and,
- the Illinois Republican Party Platform.

This is one convention not to be missed! See you there!

Finally, Americans will be observing Memorial Day on the last Monday in May to honor men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Remember to take time to thank the Lord for the American heroes who gave their all in service to our nation. Freedom is not free. "The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree." ~ Thomas Campbell. It is with honor and gratitude that we recognize all those service members.

Wishing everyone a blessed month of May.  
Lana Soldat, President  
Illinois Federation of Republican Women



# IFRW SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



IFRW Treasurer Caratina Myers & Campaign/Political Chair Diane Bradbury greeted attendees.

## Friday Night Welcome Reception



Diane Jordan & Peoria County RW "fun girls".

IFRW women from around the state gathered for the April 5-6 IFRW "Spring to Victory" Spring Leadership Conference and Board Meeting at the Holiday Inn & Suites in East Peoria.

The Welcome Reception and Meet and Greet gave attendees an opportunity to catch up on friendships, share ideas, and meet area elected officials.

3rd Vice President Diane Jordan planned the fun-filled evening with hors d'oeuvres and a patriotic costume photo booth.



IFRW's Welcome Reception was sponsored by John Ackerman - Tazewell County Clerk/Recorder



IFRW 1st Vice President Linda Hernandez with Immediate Past-President Jayne Lehman Raef







# 2024 IFRW Spring Conference/Board Meeting Highlights



IFRW President Lana Soldat welcomed members to the IFRW "Spring to Victory" Spring Conference/Board Meeting.



IFRW Club Presidents and Proxies



Immediate Past President:  
Jayne Lehman Raef;  
Treasurer: Caratina Mayer



2nd Vice President:  
Diane Jordan;  
President: Lana Soldat



1st Vice President  
Linda Hernandez;  
Secretary: Beth Provost



3rd Vice President  
Debbie Leininger  
4th Vice President  
Jennifer Yborra



Parliamentarian  
Susan  
Wynn Bence





## TABLE TALK

Breakout sessions with IFRW board members allowed club officers the opportunity to learn and ask questions concerning their elected positions. Session categories included Club President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Fundraising, and Legislation. NFRW 3rd Vice President Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman presented to club presidents.







4th Vice President and Fundraising Chair, Jennifer Yborra, coordinated IFRW's Silent Auction, which was comprised of club baskets and board member items. All proceeds benefited IFRW.



Laura Machetti graciously set up the political book sale display of former Illinois Republican Party Vice Chair and IFRW member MaryAlice Erickson.

All proceeds from the sale were donated to IFRW.

MaryAlice now resides in Florida.



Caratina Meyer presented the 2024 budget to the membership and explained that IFRW must raise money to pay for conferences and growing the organization. Local clubs and members were encouraged to become IFRW Patrons.



IFRW Secretary Beth Provost gave the Club Presidents and Proxy roll call. Minutes from the 2023 IFRW Fall Conference were then approved.

Accurate minutes like Beth's is key to a successful organization.



Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman is 3rd Vice President of NFRW, and serves as Director of NFRW Region 5 (Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee). She also is the advisor to the NFRW Fundraising Committee.

A former IFRW President, Buckwalter-Schurman, has served on the NFRW Executive Committee in numerous leadership positions.





IFRW President **Lana Soldat** gave her annual report and encouraged the membership to take an active role in the upcoming elections. She stressed the importance of working with County Central Committees and legislators.



**Michael Butler**, Cor Strategies Political Cultivator, & YouTube personality of "Smoke Filled Room" featuring the latest in Illinois politics



Rep. **Nicole La Ha**, Assistant Republican Leader **Jackie Haas**, and House Republican Leader **Tony McCombie** shared their experiences as woman legislators in the Illinois General Assembly.



Rhonda Belford, RCCA Chair, gave an update on the Illinois Party and upcoming Convention.



NFRW 3rd Vice President Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman shared stories she had as IFRW State President and gave an NFRW update.



The Lincoln Series: President Katie Justak announces the Mary Jo Arndt Scholarship



1st Vice President Linda Hernandez honored departed club members during the "In Memory" ceremony.

The Lincoln Series provides the tools, knowledge and statewide network to help Republican women in Illinois become purposeful leaders.

IFRW is proud to offer scholarship opportunities through The Lincoln Series to Republican women who are exploring leadership training related to the political arena.



"Trailblazing for the Future". Illinois Young Republicans shared their experiences as party activists on their college campuses.



The 2023 Lincoln Series graduates included IFRW 2nd Vice President Diane Jordan.

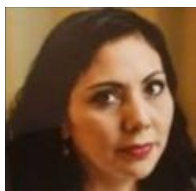




## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

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.

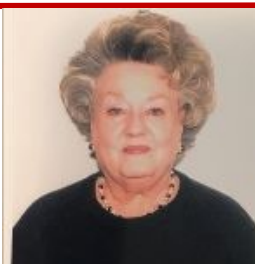


**CARITINA MAYER**  
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## IFRW CHAPLAIN CORNER

After a horrendous 66 day voyage crossing the Atlantic, the pilgrims created the Mayflower Compact which in essence said "that free and equal men had voluntarily covenanted together to create their own new civil government based on Biblical principles." It became the cornerstone of representative American government. We seem to have lost our way.



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

## MEMBERSHIP TIP

Everyone should now be receiving the monthly IFRW newsletter. One of its purposes is to offer information and ideas on how other clubs are fundraising as well as increasing membership. I urge each club to send a copy of their respective newsletters to all other club presidents. Helping each other is how we grow!

## Support the work of IFRW!

The red donation button has been activated on our website.

Please go to <https://ifrw.org/donate/> to check it out! Encourage club members, associate members, elected officials, County GOP Central Committee, community businesses, and fellow Republicans to consider donating to IFRW's cause—educating Republican women and electing Republicans to office!

