



Illinois Federation of Business Women's Clubs, Inc.

ILLINOIS BULLETIN

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS

Winter Edition

PRESIDENT

Our Officers

President:

Cherie Kesler
president@ifbwc.org

President Elect:

Danielle DiMarzio
president-elect@ifbwc.org

Secretary:

Susan McGrath
secretary@ifbwc.org

Treasurer:

Tina Klein
treasurer@ifbwc.org

This has been an unusual time for all of us. We, as executive team, have continued to move the goals of IFBWC forward.

I appreciate all of you that attended our spring ZOOM meeting. I appreciate the executive team and their quick response to the unique circumstances. IFBWC has invested in a ZOOM account so that we are not as limited. The meeting ran smoothly as was very productive. Thank you all.

We had an amazing socially distant outdoor leadership conference this summer. I am happy to report that I do believe that it was a great success. We honored the 2020 IFBWC OWWI winners and heard from each. We had a socially distant continental breakfast and fantastic speakers. I was happy to see all of you who attended.

We have entered into a contract for our convention for April, and I'm hoping the world is in a better place. I'm hoping that each and every one of you attend this convention.

Recently, I have been talking to networking about the idea of starting a social statewide affinity section. I miss seeing you all at our events. The idea is a monthly virtual book club over ZOOM. This situation makes me realize that I miss seeing all of you and that we're much stronger when we interact and connect.

I was looking forward to Interim board in person while following state guidelines. But after our state took the step backwards recently, we contacted the public health and the hotel. Public Health advised us not to meet in person due to the rapid rise in cases in Champaign County. Thankfully, the hotel agreed to not charge us for cancelling. The executive team made the decision to move the meeting to all ZOOM. I look forward to seeing your faces brady bunch style.

Interim board is an important meeting and a requirement per our bylaws. It is important that we have quorum. For that to happen, we NEED YOU.

Stay Well,

Cherie Kesler - 2019 - 2020 President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

November marks the month everyone is Thankful. Thanksgiving is actually my favorite holiday. It's the time family gets together and shares what we are all thankful for. My family started a tradition, several years ago, that at Thanksgiving meal, we all go around the table to share what we are thankful for. It has always been the highlight for me to see and hear the thankful thoughts of those I am closest to. We all have things to be thankful for, every single day, not just in November or Thanksgiving. This year has proven to be difficult for many, but it has also shown me what is most important: people.

I am thankful for all the wonderful people in my life, especially ALL OF YOU! I would not be where I am in life in general if it were not for the wonderful women in this organization! I owe all of my success in my career to you and a lot of my personal growth also. While I am very saddened that we are unable to get together in person for Interim Board, I am grateful that there are other methods to "meet" and "see" one another.

I am thankful for this organization, that brings like-minded women all over the state of Illinois together, for one purpose, to encourage, to support, and to empower other women. This mission is what sets us apart from other organizations out there. That is why I am excited to share that we are planning a special event designed specifically to empower women in 2021. You may have heard me talk about this before because the Crawford County Business Women have done this now for two years and had great success. Mark your calendars for an afternoon with other outstanding women from all over the state of Illinois at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham, September 18, 2021. It will be an event you won't want to miss! This event is designed to be a FREE event for all attendees whether you are a member of IFBWC or not! It is designed to inspire, encourage, EMPOWER, create growth and amazing networking opportunities for ALL WOMEN! Our committee will be asking members to speak and help out in different capacities so be looking for a contact in the spring and summer to be a part of making this event even more successful and fun.

I am thankful for the Leadership Team of this organization, Cherie, Susan, Tina, Carol, and Carla. I have had the privilege and honor of serving and learning the past two years with these exceptional women and continue to be inspired by each of them and their knowledge and experience. We are in good hands with this team and would not have chosen a better one to serve in such a time as this.

I am thankful we had the opportunity to get together in September for Leadership Conference. Everyone who attended that I have heard from, thoroughly enjoyed the event that was made even better with the honoring of the Outstanding Working Women awards. The two women who were awarded, were greatly deserving as they always are, and it is always inspiring and encouraging seeing women like them and hearing what they are doing for their communities and the lives of others. We had an awesome turnout, especially for the times we are in and it was wonderful getting to see IFBWC friends.

Last but not least, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve. The past several years, I have stepped up in my community, in my church, and for this organization both at the State Level and locally, serving in many different capacities and found a love I never knew I had. I love helping people, helping businesses, helping my community and state and it is something I look forward to every time I see a need. The old saying, "it is better to give, than to receive" has never struck truer for me these past few years. The rewards of giving greatly outweigh those of receiving. I am grateful that you all have continued to push me into different positions in this organization to help me grow and realize these benefits and my potential. I am also grateful for you putting your faith and trust in me to be a leader in this organization that I love, that has given back so much to me, so I now can give back more.

If you are interested in learning the different ways to serve in this organization and also reap the rewards, please reach out to me or Chair of Nominations, Beth Galicia. We are still filling up positions on the State Board and Executive Committee for 2021. If you would like to serve but with a lesser responsibility, we have positions on committees that need filled too! If you have a heart for this organization and creative ideas on how to help us continue to grow, WE NEED YOU!

Even when things look bleak, continue to dream, continue to believe, and we all can achieve great and impossible things together!

Danielle DiMarzio - 2019 - 2020 President-Elect

FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

It was wonderful to see everyone at leadership conference in my hometown of Champaign. I hope you all enjoyed Hessel Park, not only the pavilion, but also the park itself. Cherie and I worked together to bring a good lineup of speakers, and an agenda that combined training and fun for the attendees. This event was recorded, so if you were unable to attend, I hope that you will take some time to check it out on our website, and to share it with our members and potential members. Danielle did a wonderful job of putting together some fun door prizes for the attendees, and Cherie also contributed a delicious breakfast for us all. That event will be something we can reflect upon and remember the memories we created until we can see each other again.

In the meantime, the executive committee has been discussing other ways we can connect during COVID, and Cherie has outlined one of those ideas in her report. Please contact us and let us know what you think of that idea, or other ideas that you might have to bring us together. Other suggestions have included a recipe exchange (we do a Christmas cookie recipe exchange with our Champaign-Urbana local, for example).

You will find an Action Report of the activities of the Executive Committee, and our Board meetings, with your agenda for Interim Board. I made it to cover everything we have done from Interim Board November 2019 forward, not only because we haven't been able to have a lot of face to face contact, but also because it does show how our organization continues to move forward.

And on a personal note, it is my honor to announce that I was successful in my campaign and will be sworn in as the next Champaign County Circuit Clerk on December 1. I am looking forward to serving this county in a new capacity.

This has been a challenging year for us all in our IFBWC, business and personal endeavors. I can certainly tell you some interesting stories from the campaign trail. No matter what, this organization will continue to represent your interests as businesswomen, and to support you as mentors, trainers, and good friends.

Susan McGrath, Secretary

FROM THE STATE TREASURER

I know you will get tired of me talking about 990s, but I want to make sure that we do not have the issue we had a few years ago. All Local Organizations are required to submit a 990 ez (postcard) to the IRS even though you do not pay anything, and you have next to nothing in your bank accounts. This has two purposes: The IRS requires that sub-organizations (Local Organizations) report to the IRS every 3 years so that the Parent (State Federation IFBWC) retains its IRS status (501(c) (6)).

If the Local Organization has its own tax exemption status, submitting the IRS forms are required to retain the status.

If the forms are not submitted and the Local Organization loses its IRS status, it will cost \$500 or more, plus a lot of paperwork and headache dealing with the IRS to regain the status. So please submit your forms as soon as possible.

Instructions on submitting the 990 online are on the IFBWC website in the Members Only Section, Under Forms and Manuals.

Thank you to Krehbiel & Associates, LLC for the easiest and fastest financial review I have ever done. This year I am proud to announce that our review is complete, and all documents have been sent to the IRS on time and without an extension. Thank you, Michelle Hagen, for all your hard work and guidance.

One other thing I need to bring to your attention is the Budget. If you notice, there is more money going out than coming in. We need to really look at what we want to do with our money. Do we want to cut out some expenses? How do we increase our income? Add more members! Things need to change if we want to still be around in the next 3 years.

Tina Klein, Treasurer

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT



Young Professional/Career Professional Speak-Off Competition

The topics for the Speak-Off Competition at the 2021 State Convention are as follows:

1. What are some of the biggest challenges that women face today? How do you see these changing in the next 10 years?
2. If you could meet any influential woman, past or present, who would you choose and what would you ask her?
3. What do you feel was the most influential moment in women's history, and why?
4. The Vice President of the United States will be a woman for the first time in history. What impact do you feel that will have on the role of women in the workplace and/or in politics?
5. Do you feel that gender inequality exists in the United States? Why or why not?

Please contact Education Chair Alishia Winkler at 618-322-6306 or education@ifbwc.org if you would like more information about competition rules or if your local organization is interested in having a candidate for the Speak-Off.

The Education Committee
Alishia Winkler

IFBWC WEBSITE UPDATES

I wanted to take an opportunity to address an issue with the President's email scam. The website and any financial transactions are very secure and have not been compromised. The scammers are taking the email address off the public webpages and using them to email out to the other emails on the page and that can be found on the public pages of the website. It was decided at the November Executive Committee to take all emails off all public pages of the website. Guests can still contact the organization through the Contact Page.

Since the emails have been on the website for a long time and some scammers have the email address, they will still be able to impersonate the IFBWC President and others board members. Please do not click on any links from emails from IFBWC unless it is through the News From IFBWC. All links are on the website. So you can go directly to the website and register for any event.

IFBWC nor WildApricot sells or gives any information to outside companies. We keep all information private. If you have any questions let me know.

Please if you see something that is not correct on the website, feel free to contact me at tinaKL31@gmail.com with specific information. Give me the page of the website and the information that needs to be corrected.

The OWWI, Speak-Off Topics, Financials, and Actions taken have all been updated on the website in the Members Only section.

Tina Klein
IFBWC Webmistress

ERA REPORT

If you are in Illinois, first thank our Illinois congressional delegation members that voted for removing the deadline with H.J.Res 79. Next, call our senators. They are both co-sponsors, but the bigger hurdle is to get a vote on S.J.Res.6. All you have to do is say "I am a constituent. Please push for a vote lift the deadline on the Equal Rights Amendment." Then put a reminder on you calendar to call again next week.

Dick Durbin (312) 353-4952
Tammy Duckworth (312) 886-3506

Meanwhile, the Illinois Attorney General filed a lawsuit to ensure the Equal Rights Amendment is affirmed by the courts.

With the Election Craze and COVID-19 pandemic not much has happened in the progress in ratifying ERA. When the results are finally announced and finalized then we can get back to work. For more toolkits and updates you can go the Legislation page on www.ifbwc.org or to the Equal Rights Amendment website <https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/toolkit/>. We still have a lot to do and we still need to send the message to our representatives as often as possible.

Tina Klein
ERA Representative

*Happy
Holidays*

From the 2020 - 2021 EXCOM



Save the Date

99th Annual Convention

April 23 - 25, 2021



Holiday Inn
101 Trade Center Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 398-3400

The Theme for Convention is the Roaring 20s.



PAST STATE PRESIDENTS BIRTHDAYS

January:

Barbara Yong - 4
Deborah Hicks - 7
Linda Hiltabrand - 7
Tina Suarez - 28

February:

Pam McKay - 20
Theresa Faith Cummings - 27

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 8 - 9 Celia M. Howard Fellowship Annual Meeting
Jan. 7 Submit proposed changes to Legislative Platform
Jan. 22 48th Anniversary Roe vs. Wade
Feb 1 Paperwork submitted (Postmarked by Feb 1) for Officer Candidacy.
Feb. 17 Submit Articles to the IL Bulletin Editor (Tina Klein) & Pres. Kesler
Feb. 17 Proposed Amendments to State Bylaws Submitted to President Elect
March 28 End of year reports for the Convention Packet due.

For Local Organization events please go to the Google Calendar on the IFBWC website at www.ifbwc.org or Facebook

Illinois Federation of Business Women's Clubs, Inc.

Dues Form ~ Remit with your payment.

Please Print

\$35.00 MOL \$13.00 Student Member

\$35.00 Member at Large

Member ID: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Local: _____ Region: _____

New Renewal Sponsor _____

Student Status: Full-Time Part-Time (check one)

School: _____

Major _____ Exp Grad Date: _____

**SEND TO: IFBWC, PO Box 1174,
Springfield, IL 62705-1174**

ONE FORM PER NEW/ RENEWAL

LO Treasurer, please complete one of the two:

1. Collect a check from the member that is for the state portion only
2. Request that your member write one check to your LO and the LO will then submit the appropriate amount to state.

The
ILLINOIS BULLETIN

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IFBW Mission Statement:

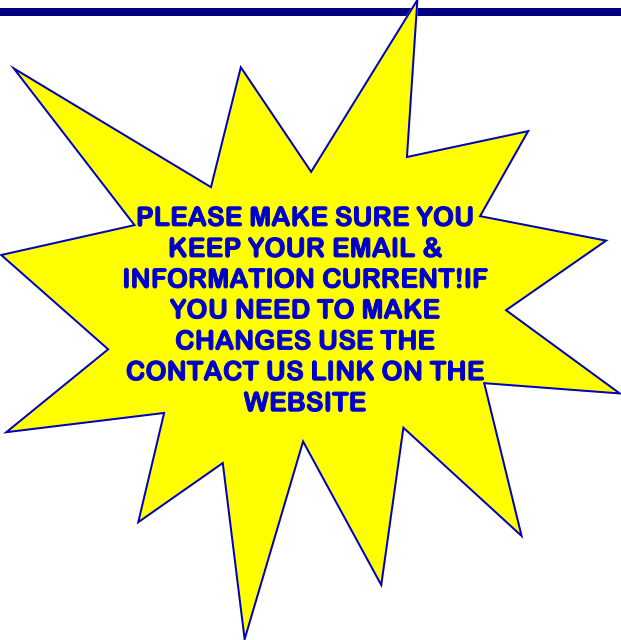
The mission of IFBW shall be to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information.

Please send any articles to
the Illinois Bulletin Editor:

Tina Klein

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**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
KEEP YOUR EMAIL &
INFORMATION CURRENT!!IF
YOU NEED TO MAKE
CHANGES USE THE
CONTACT US LINK ON THE
WEBSITE**