

SPEAK OUT!

QUOTES *by Susan Wall, IAW President*

I am a person who likes wise quotes and meaningful sayings. I write them down and put them on my refrigerator, and keep them in a book for later reference. I think my children and friends check to see what new one I may have put up when they come to see me. My grandchildren and Sunday school kids all know one of my favorites: "Your



mind is a garden, Your thoughts are the seeds, You can grow flowers, Or you can grow weeds!" Then there is, "A wise old owl sat in the oak; The more he heard, the less he spoke; The less he spoke, the more he heard; shouldn't we all be like that wise old bird?" Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "For after all, the best thing one can do when it is raining is let it rain." I also like this: "Live like someone left the gate open!" And George Washington Carver said, "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." It is good that we read these words of advice from those who have been there and know all about life.

In March, IAW had its annual meeting at the Beck's Hybrid Seed Distribution and Practical Research Center in Effingham, Illinois. We had a great meeting and a wonderful time together. There were 35 members present! We had a very good business meeting and tour of Beck's during the morning, a delicious meal at noon, and a tour of the local Hodgson Mill and their outlet store in the afternoon. The evening prior to the meeting, those members who spent the night in Effingham, got together and ate out at a local restaurant. I want to let you know that I had a good time and I was so proud of all you ladies and what we represent! I could tell that the people of Effingham were very helpful and showed IAW much respect. They recognized that we are an important part of agriculture. I also feel that IAW learned how agriculture influences Effingham and its surrounding area.

We were all very busy in March with Ag Legislative Day at the State Cap-

Dates to Remember

2016

Jun 3 Meeting– Farmer's State Bank

Jun 8 Illinois Ag Legislative Roundtable Day

Jul 22, Ag Leadership Training and IAW Meeting
Illinois State Capitol Building

Sept. 16, Meeting
Starved Rock Lodge

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tol and another very successful Women Changing the Face of Agriculture! It is wonderful to see our members doing what they do best; telling the story of agriculture to others. I believe that IAW is taking common agricultural things in life and doing them in an uncommon way, and the world is taking note!

I want to remind you of our next IAW board meeting which is to be on June 3rd @ 9:00 A.M. at the Farmer's State Bank, 108 East Adams St., Pittsfield, Illinois 62363. IAW will also be hosting a Leadership conference in Springfield, Illinois on July 22 with an IAW board meeting afterwards. You can find the information in this newsletter. Thanks for allowing me to serve as your

president and I hope to see you all soon. Remember to make sure you are planting the right seeds in your garden and have the courage to live like someone left the gate open!

Photo (right) displays IAW Past Presidents

Front Row L to R: Helen Henert, Eleanor Zimmerlein,

Back row L to R: Pat Yeagle, Shirley Bartelt, Heather Hampton+Knodle, Penny Lauritzen, Ruth Hambleton, and Linda Swiercinsky.



**2016 IAW Memberships Dues
New Member / Renewal**

____ I would like to renew my IAW membership
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

____ I would like to join IAW.
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

Name _____
Spouse _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ County _____
Ph _____ Email _____

Our organization needs your support, both physically and financially, to meet our goals and promote agriculture in Illinois. Please send your check and complete form to Jennifer Waters.

**Send to:
Jennifer Waters
4974 Robinson Rd
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
Membership renewals are due each
March. If you have not yet renewed
please remit today!**

Leadership at Its Best Conference

“I had such a memorable experience at the American Agri-Women Leadership At Its Best Conference. I was able to connect with other female ag professionals from all over the U.S. and all walks of life. Throughout the conference our group attended a wide range of helpful interactive seminars. We were to share ideas, experiences, and grow personally and professionally. I walked away with fresh ideas, a rejuvenated passion for ag, and many new friends and contacts. “

-Erin Williams, Conference Participant



“Leadership at its Best Program.....What an opportunity I received through Illinois Agri-Women. Attending Leadership at its Best was an amazing opportunity to be a part of for IAW. The program was geared toward learning new leadership skills, public speaking, team building and media presence. I learned so much in a short amount of time, I feel I am so much better prepared to be an advocate of agriculture than before. To have a chance to attend and meet so many other great women, new lifelong friends, that all have the same passion as I do was so moving. Trying to feed this growing world takes leaders and doers. I can now say after attending Leadership at its Best I am a leader and a doer. Thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity.”

-Kristina Church, Conference Participant

Keys to Success – Persuasion and Influence from Women’s Perspectives

Friday, July 22nd at the Illinois State Capitol. You’ll hear from successful practitioners in the art of influence and persuasion including Jean Payne, Executive Director for the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association; State Representatives Sarah Jimenez and Avery Bourne and Federal Constituent Services Director Jen White.

Our own Erin Williams with Cenex Harvest States will coordinate a mixer among attendees. Come with your questions and leave empowered to achieve your desired outcomes in your volunteer and professional pursuits. Register by July 1st.

The registration link for the July Seminar is:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/iaw-july-leadership-seminar-tickets-25213485213>

Ticket price online prepay is \$11.54.

\$10 payable to Illinois Agri-Women Mail checks to 20212 Voils Avenue, Fillmore, IL 62032 by June 30th.

Cost is \$15 at the door.

Agriculture Education, Youth and Leadership

More than \$127,000 was donated to 14 groups that are dedicated to the future of agriculture by providing education, youth and leadership programs.

1st Farm Credit Services announced the 14 recipients of the 1st Farm Credit Services Donor Advised Fund on Friday, in conjunction with an on-going celebration of the Farm Credit System's 100 year anniversary.

"Since last summer, Farm Credit has been reflecting on the past 100 years and the evolution of the system, as well as Illinois agriculture," said 1st Farm

Credit Services Board Member Clinton Brown. "While reflection is important when you reach such as significant milestone, we have been equally focused on looking to the future. The groups here today represent the future and we are proud of the relationships we have built with each of you."

To date, more than \$700,000 has been awarded to groups since the fund was established six years ago. 1st Farm Credit Services has invested \$1.25 million into the fund.

The groups and programs funded in 2016 include:

- Annie's Project - for empowering farm women to be better business partners through education networks (\$6,250)
- Illinois Agri-Women: Women Changing the Face of Agriculture, career discovery event (\$6250)

Since its creation in 2010, the Donor Advised Fund recipient groups have used the funding to impact more than 3 million lives, by exposing people to programs that promote agriculture education, youth and leadership.



Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Update

by Penny Lauritzen

- WCFA Planning Committee met Wednesday, April 6th at 1st Farm Credit Services office, Normal. There were 23 members in attendance, 4 members that joined by conference call and 4 that were not able to participate that day due to other commitments. Reports from committee members for 2016 event were reviewed and plans for 2017 event got underway.

- WCFA/ IAW Project for career and leadership development for young women was one of 14 recipients of the 1st Farm Credit Services Donor Advised Fund. The Fund has invested more than \$700,000 by recognizing groups dedicated to the future of agriculture by providing education, youth and leadership programs. A check for \$6,250 was presented at the April 22nd reception

- WCFA monthly conference calls will be held the **Second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM.** If you would like to participate in the planning for WCFA 2017, let Penny Lauritzen or Karen Blatter know so that you will be included on the conference call notices.

**WCFA 2017
March 10, 2017
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL**

Illinois Agricultural Resource Council Corner

By Diana Ropp, IARC President

By the time you are reading this – it will be the middle of May already. Time is marching on with the quickness and I for one would like to see it slow down just a little bit!

The recent IAW/IARC Annual Meetings were well attended in Effingham, IL and the tours were both educational and fun. Thanks so much to Susan Wall and Mary Meinhart for their meeting and arrangement coordination. The IARC Board for the 2016/2017 year includes the following:

- Diana Ropp – President (2015-0217)
- Cheryl Day– Vice President (2015-2017)
- Kristina Church – Secretary (2016-2018)
- Shirley Bartelt – Treasurer (2016-2018)

- Heather Hampton-Knodle (2016-2018)
- Jennifer Waters (2016-2018)
- Sarah Fernandez (2016-2018)
- Karen Blatter Schieler (2015-2017)
- Pat Yeagle – Past President (2015-2017)
- Penny Lauritzen (2015-2017)

I hope I have the terms listed accurately above. Thanks so much to the following retiring Board Members: Martha Blum, Beverly Coffman and Emily Pratt. Your support has been truly appreciated.

As IAW/IARC Bylaws are updated and revised, there is a good chance the IARC Board will look considerably different and reduced in size this time next year. As Illi-

nois Agri Women grow in membership and diversity it is imperative the Bylaws of both entities are accurate as well as functional should we ever come under scrutiny of the IRS. Personally, I am not expecting that to happen, but it is important for all of the legal documents for IAW/IARC to be cohesive and reflect the mission of both organizations. Thanks so much to Karen Westbrook, Sarah Fernandez, Susan Wall, Mary Meinhart and Heather Hampton-Knodle for the conscientious work and time that has already been devoted to the revision process.

Best wishes for a continued safe planting season and Happy Belated Mother’s Day to all!

State and Federal Legislation

STATE

H.B. 6160 – Forces the state answer concealed-carry permit requests within 30 days. Filed Feb. 11, 2016 by Rep. Andy Skoog (D-LaSalle). Source LaSalle News-Tribune.

S.B. 2237 – Allows telecommunications companies and cable operators to access the road right-of-way after receiving consent from the highway authority. Passed the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee and is on Third Reading. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2059 – Provides a total of \$651.7 million for expenses incurred until September 1, 2016. \$74.1 million will be appropriated to community colleges, \$169.8 million for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) assistance fund, and the remainder will be split between the state institutions of higher learning. Approved by both chambers. The human services appropriation bill, S.B. 2047, provides approximately \$451 million for costs incurred prior to July 1, 2016. Approved by the Senate. It is expected the House will take up S.B. 2047 when it returns after a break next week. Source Quick View.

S.B. 389 (Sen. Morrison/Rep. Sente) would allow the county board, in counties with a popula-

tion between 500,000 and 3,000,000 to dissolve a drainage district whose commissioners are appointed by the county board. If a drainage district is dissolved, those commissioners would no longer hold office and the county board would assume all taxing authority and functions of the dissolved drainage district. Also, S.B. 389 would give township board of trustees the ability to pass a resolution to abolish road districts whose road system makes up less than 15 miles of roadway. S.B. 389 passed the Senate and has arrived in the House. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2160 – (Sen. Sullivan/Rep. Bradley) will extend the sunset date on property tax assessments on agricultural filter strips to December 2026. S.B. 2160 passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Revenue and Finance Committee. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2992 – Would authorize the Governor, during an emergency harvest situation, to allow for a 10% gross vehicle weight (GVW) limit increase in order to effectively transport agricultural commodities from the field to local grain bins and elevators in a more efficient manner, while also reducing truck traffic on our local roads. S.B. passed the Senate and has arrived in the House. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2550 (Sen. Forby) S.B. 1304 (passed in Spring, 2015) increased the surcharge for traffic violations and criminal convictions from \$10 per \$40 of fine to \$15 per \$40 of fine. Truck overweight fines are considered traffic violations and have increasing and very costly fines.

IFB has been working with legislators and staff to reach a compromise to reduce the negative impact of the significant increase in truck overweight fine surcharges resulting from the legislation that passed last year. S.B. 2550 is assigned to the Subcommittee on Police Professionalism of the Senate Executive Committee. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2551 (Sen. Righter), H.B. 4969 (Rep. Meier) Expedited Review of Transmission Line Projects. These two pieces of legislation aim to change the expedited review process that any transmission line can use so that it would be more reasonable for impacted landowners. S.B. 2551 has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Generation, Utilities, and Telecom in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. H.B. 4969 has been referred to the House Rules Committee. Source Quick View

Legislative Report *continued from page 6*

H.B. 5010 (Rep. Feigenholt/President Cullerton) Provides that no owner of a dog or cat that is a companion animal may expose the dog or cat for a prolonged period of time to extreme heat or cold conditions that result in hypothermia, frostbite, or similar condition as determined by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. H.B. 5010 passed the House of Representatives. Source Quick View.

S.B. 388 – TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION – Would allow for multiple townships that share a border to consolidate through front door referendum, and the decision to consolidate must be approved by a majority of the voters in the affected townships. The bill also allows for townships that are coterminous with a municipality to dissolve into that municipality. S.B. 388 passed the Senate and has arrived in the House. Source Quick View.

H.B. 4501 (Rep. Yingling/Sen. T. Cullerton) Would allow all county boards within the State to dissolve and consolidate units of local governments whose boards are appointed by the county board. The county board would pass a resolution or ordinance to dissolve a specific local government unit, which would be initiated through backdoor referen-

dum. H.B.4501 passed the House and has arrived for consideration in the Senate. Source Quick View.

S.B.2287 (Sen. Althoff) SINGULAR TOWNSHIP DISSOLUTION. Allows for singular townships to dissolve into the county, provided that a citizen initiated petition to dissolve the township is approved by local referendum. Referendum approval must be agreed to by a majority of voters in the entire county. The bill would also transfer the duties, debts, property, and obligations from the township being dissolved to the county. S.B. 2287 has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Consolidation in the Senate Local Government Committee. Source Quick View.

S.B. 2289 (Sen. Althoff) removes the 126 square mile cap on township size, while also removing the minimum requirement for each township to have an equalized assessed valuation of \$10,000,000.00. If township boundaries are consolidated, S.B. 2289 would allow for the county board to pass an ordinance requiring a new property tax levy rate to be levied on the newly consolidated township, unless otherwise specified in the petition to consolidate. S.B. 2289 has been assigned to the Senate Subcommittee on Consolidation. Source Quick View.

Public Act 99-501 Public libraries can get matching grants to buy automated external defibrillators. Signed into law by Gov. Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

H.B. 4650 (Rep. Kifowit) exempts the value of farm property transferred to a qualified heir from the decedent's taxable estate if any qualified heir of the decedent will be engaged in active management of the farm for a period of at least 10 years after the date of the transfer, or until the death of that qualified heir. H.B. 4650 has been re-referred to the House Rules Committee. Source Quick View.

H.B. 6113 (Rep. Bourne) ESTATE TAX EXCLUSION FOR FARMERS. This bill allows that, for persons dying on or after July 1, 2016, if the decedent was a farmer, then the exclusion amount for that decedent shall be the federal exclusion amount, including any deceased spousal unused exclusion amount. The term "farmer" is defined as a decedent whose adjustable taxable estate consists of at least 75% farm property and who was engaged in active management of that farm property at any point during his or her lifetime. H.R. has been re-referred to the House Rules Committee. Source Quick View.

WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AG SPONSORS 2016

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SPEAK OUT!

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