

Madonna of the Trail

by Susan Wall, IAW President



Have you ever been to Vandalia, Illinois? It was the capitol of Illinois from 1819-1839 and for many years it was the terminus of the National Road (also called the Cumberland Road). Standing out on the front lawn of the old Capitol stands a very inspiring monument called the "Madonna of the Trail". It is a pioneer woman in her long dress, high-topped walking shoes, sun bonnet,

walking stick in one hand, carrying a baby with the other arm, and a toddler walking beside her pulling at her skirt. The woman is looking straight ahead and walking with a strong, determined look on her face. There are 12 of these monuments, one in each state which runs along the National Road. I have admired this pioneer woman since I was a young child. I could only imagine how strong and brave these women were, who picked up their children and belongings to go west into an unknown land with their husbands to find their own land and settle there. I also was thinking of my own grandma who told us stories about her family moving from Illinois to Missouri when she was eleven years old. She walked the whole way behind the wagon while keeping track of the younger children and the cow, which was tied to the back of the wagon so they would have milk. I was amazed to hear this wonderful story that she told, and I admired my grandma for her strength and courage.

continued on page 2

Dates to Remember

2015

June 7-10 AAW Fly-In
Washington, D.C.

June 10 ILFB Legis. Roundtable
Bloomington, IL

July 16 IAW Board Meeting
Hill Prairie Winery Oakford, IL

Aug. 18 Ag Day
Illinois State Fair

Sept. 1-3 Farm Progress Show
Decatur, IL

Nov. 6-9 AAW Convention
Portland, Maine

Inside this issue:

IAW ANNUAL MEETING	3
IL AG LEGIS ROUNDTABLE	4
IARC NEWS	5
WCFA NEWS	8
LEGISLATION UPDATE	10

CHANGE TO IAW SCHEDULED MEETING



Due to a number of conflicting agriculture events, the IAW Meeting scheduled for June 10 is being cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 16 at the Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford, IL. Lunch will be at the Oakford Café.

President Message continued from page 1

I guess Mother's Day got me to thinking about women that I admire. I think all of the women of my family have been and are very strong, kind, and courageous. I know that all of our Illinois Agri Women have these same traits. We have "Annie's Project", which is in honor of Ruth Hambleton's mother. We have "Women Changing the Face of Agriculture". I just received word that SIU is honoring the life time works of Jean Ibendahl. Jean

started the concept of "Ag in the Classroom". She has always been a strong, brave champion for agriculture and women. She will be 97 on June 10. We also have news in this letter on how you can nominate more of these kind of women for our State Fair Awards. Coming up soon, is the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-in. So I want you to remember to have the "Madonna of the Trail" spirit in your heart and conquer

whatever challenges life puts in front of you!

Please feel free to get in touch with me. My phone number is 217-272-4485 and e-mail is susanwall@frontiernet.net

"GO GIRL" Silent Auction & Annual Meeting Donors

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Springfield Convention & Visitors
Bureau, Springfield
Linda Swiercinsky, Maquon

Reminder: Any IAW member who travels to an AAW meeting is entitled to reimbursement for her registration fee as long as there are funds in the "Go Girl" travel account. In return, the IAW member will write a short article for the IAW newsletter following her trip. (This includes AAW Midyear in Oklahoma City, March 26-29, the AAW Fly-In to Washington, D.C., June 7-10, and AAW convention in Portland, Maine, November 6-9, 2015.)

2015 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 _____

Annual dues of \$50.00 are due March 1, 2015 to be current. 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!

Oklahoma Meeting was Stormy but the Skies Cleared

by Linda Swiercinsky

In my opinion, Oklahoma City should have the nickname "Tornado Alley" because there are storm warnings almost every time I drive through there! This year was no exception with about five minutes to unload my truck before the winds and hail hit.

This year's AAW Midyear meeting was hosted by newly reorganized Oklahoma Agri-Women. While most of the OAW members are young professionals, a highlight of the meeting was when Joan Adams, Julia Hinthner and Jean Wiyatt walked in. These three ladies were all extremely active in the 70's. When I asked "What happened?" (to the affiliate) one responded, "We got old!"

Speaking of age, we celebrated Eleanor 's 90th birthday with cake and best wishes. She and Pat Yeagle continue to make important contributions to our policy-making at mid-year, which then gets written up for our visit to Washington, D.C. (Scheduled for June 7-10 this year; if anyone wants to ride along with me, you have to allow a week for the drive, but it's a pleasant trip.)

This year we learned more about native pollinators from Becky Langer-Curry (representing Bayer) and Laura Peterson (Syngenta). The pollinator issue is coming up all over the country, even here in the suburbs of Chicago where the Sierra Club is holding "informational meetings".

There are two sides to everything and it was helpful to hear from ag business. There also was what could have been a stormy exchange on some long-held AAW policies, but fortunately the majority of attendees voted down any major changes to Agenda 21 and Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) positions.

AAW gives you so much more to learn at these meetings. Remember, while it is expensive to travel out of state, IAW will reimburse you for part of your trip to Midyear, Fly-In and each annual meeting (this year in Portland, Maine, Nov. 5-7). There also are scholarships available for first timers!

Celebrating Lifetime Achievements of Jean Ibendahl

A champion for agricultural education, Mrs. Jean Ibendahl has spent her lifetime advancing opportunities for students in agriculture. She has played vital roles in Ag In The Classroom, Illinois and American Agri-Women, and various other scholarship and education initiatives.

On June 10, 2015, Mrs. Ibendahl will be celebrating her 97th birthday. The College of Agricultural Sciences at SIU is planning a special celebration of her lifetime accomplishments and would like to invite students, teachers, and others that have been impacted by her work to take part in this special recognition.

At this time, we are asking for messages to Mrs. Ibendahl to be sent on full sheets of paper (8.5x11" not hole-punched) that will be bound together to make a special birthday gift of memories and stories of her impact throughout her leadership in agricultural education. Letters can be sent to:

College of Agricultural Sciences, Dean's Office
Mail Code 4416
1205 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

We look forward to making this a special celebration for Mrs. Jean Ibendahl, and we thank each of you for taking part in the celebration of her lifetime achievements.

-John C. Edgar, SIU Collegiate FFA Advisor

2016 Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Set at ISU in Normal

By Penny Lauritzen

The 7th annual career discovery event, a project of the Illinois Agri-Women in cooperation with the professional women of 75 companies, government agencies, universities and colleges, and non-for-profit organizations associated with agriculture, food and energy industry will be held at the Bone Student Center on the Illinois State University campus, Normal, IL. The event is set for Friday, March 4, 2016.

Twenty-one members of the WCFA Planning Committee convened for their monthly planning meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 9:00. Diana Ropp, facilities chair, shared the announcement of the location with participants. She also shared that she had attended the 1st Farm Credit Donor Advised Fund reception on April 22nd to accept the \$6,250 contribution to help cover the 2016 WCFA expenses.

Jennifer Waters reported that several IAW members will be at the State FFA Convention in June to assist with the judging of the FFA State Science Fair on June 9th. Two teams of two will be selected to attend the 2016 WCFA event as guests and receive \$250 cash award at the FFA Awards Ceremony on June 10th.

Krista Lottinville reported that May 30th is the WCFA Scholarship deadline. She will coordinate with her team to judge and share the high school and college winners of these \$1000 awards as soon as available.

Jody Hughes reported that a dairy in Livingston County will be the first stop for the 2015 winning team of Girl Scouts of America "Local Foods" Challenge on June 15. The team members were guests at the 2015 WCFA event and will be guests for this all day agriculture tour that will extend to the Bloomington area.

Sarah Fernandez and Jennifer Shike shared the plans of the University of Illinois Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) Club for publicizing the 2016 WCFA event. Lindsay Mitchell will complete the WCFA website updates. Jennifer expressed the heartfelt thanks from the ACT members for the financial support from WCFA for last year's activities that will allow them to attend national meetings and participate in several competitions.

Deb Schultz reported that charter bus contracting is underway for 2016. Megan Peterson requested everyone submit breakout session recommendations. That will be the priority agenda item for the 9:00 AM June 10th conference call. Let us know if you have a good idea or have seen something exceptional that we need to include.

ISU Sigma Alpha to England

Allison Weber, IL State University Sigma Alpha member, will spend her 2015 fall semester in Canterbury, England. She will be conducting an independent study of local agriculture and exploring the phenomena of agri-tourism in Europe. She will be visiting Universities in England that offer agriculture courses in order to assist the ISU Agriculture Department in setting up opportunities for other

agriculture majors to study abroad.

Allison has been applying for scholarships and will be working this summer to secure adequate funds for her trip, but is concerned that she may be short of her total needs. She has created a "GoFundMe" account that anyone can visit to provide any amount of support that you might want to share. Simply visit <http://www.gofundme.com/t37fxh9k> to

make a contribution.

The IARC Board has provided support in exchange for a report from Allison during the Spring Semester after she returns from England.

WCFA Receives Funds from 1st Farm Credit

It was my pleasure to represent Illinois Agri Women this past April as I accepted a contribution from the 1st Farm Credit IAA Donor Advised Fund on behalf of the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture conference. A total of \$125,000 was distributed to Illinois groups promoting students, farmers and futures leaders in the name of agriculture.

We have all witnessed Penny Lauritzen's vision grow into a thriving and engaging reality which hosted

880 students this past March. Our event has certainly found an educational niche which contin-

by Dianna Ropp

ues to be recognized by businesses and organizations willing to support us financially.



On behalf of the WCFA planning committee, thanks again to 1st Farm Credit for acknowledging our continued efforts and many thanks to all of the IAW volunteers who continue to support this event during the planning and execution process.

Nominate an Outstanding IL Agri Women

Application for:

- **Illinois Agri Women Hall of Fame**
- **Outstanding Illinois Woman Farmer**
- **Outstanding Illinois Agri Business Woman**

Deadline for all applications is June 30, 2015.

Preferred method of nomination: email to Denise Smith, abentree@aol.com

Winners and nominators will be notified by IAW board member. Awards presented at Illinois State Fair on Ag Day (1st Tuesday of State Fair in Springfield, IL)

Nominator's contact information:

Nominee's name, address, phone, and/or title

Nominate your candidate using 300 words or less:

Nominee: _____

For the award: _____

Presented by: _____

Narrative and support of candidate: (Please attach the narrative (300 words or less) to this form.

State Legislation

HB 2515 – COVERED FARM VEHICLES: Puts Illinois in compliance with federal regulation by exempting an operator of a covered Farm vehicle (CFV) from having to obtain a Commercial Driver's License. The bill also cleans up current language by defining "Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR), exempting CFV operators from the medical examiners certificate portion of statute, and provides the option for mileage plated vehicles that are 12,000 lbs. or less to be registered as a CFV. HB 2515 has passed the Senate Transportation Committee and is on Second Reading in the Senate. *Source QuickView*

HB 2580 – ROAD POSTING AND CLOSURE: The bill, as amended, states that highway commissioners cannot permanently reduce the weight limit on any road or portion thereof without first holding a public hearing to address any concerns regarding the proposed posting. The road commissioner will then send a memorandum to the county engineer explaining the reason for the proposed road posting and answering any concerns raised at the hearing. The county engineer may then approve the permanent posting at a reduced weight by signing the memorandum and filing with the road district clerk. Once the memorandum has been filed, the road can be posted. The bill also adds to the list of those who can currently appeal to lay-out, widen, alter, or vacate a road to include any 3 owners of land in the road district. The bill passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee and is on Second Reading in the Senate. *Source QuickView*

SB 1727 – EXPEDITED REVIEW OF TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS: Limits the use of the expedited review process that does not exceed 25 miles in length across privately owned real estate. It also amends the process so that if a public utility seeks eminent domain powers after the Commerce Commission has issued an order using the expedited review process, then the time the Commis-

sion has before it must issue its order regarding eminent domain is expanded from 45 days to 365 days. SB 1727 was re-referred to the Senate Assignments Committee. *Source QuickView*

SB 1948 & HB 3378 – ETHANOL INCENTIVES: This bill seeks to amend the ethanol sales tax incentive. SB 1948 was held in the Senate Revenue Committee and HB 3378 was re-referred to the House Rules Committee. *Source QuickView*

SB 11 & HB 3345 – MINIMUM WAGE: No additional action has been taken on these bills. SB 11 passed the Senate and is now in House Rules Committee. HB 3345 is on second Reading in the House. *Source QuickView*

SB 681 – EXOTIC WEEDS: Adds exotic bush honeysuckles, exotic olives including autumn olive; salt cedar; poison hemlock; giant hogweed; oriental bittersweet; and lesser celandine; and Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed to the list of designated exotic weeds. By adding these weeds to the list of exotic weeds, it would ban the weeds and their seeds from being offered for sale, bought, planted, or distributed without a permit from IDNR. The bill was amended to allow processed products from autumn olive berries with a permit from IDNR as long as the processing of the product sterilizes any seeds. SB 681 passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee. *Source QuickView*

HB 3240 – CONSTRUCTION IN FLOODPLAIN PENALTY: Increases the penalty for anyone who refuses or fails to submit an application to the IDNR before construction takes place within a designated floodplain. HB 3240 passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Environment and Conservation Committee. *Source QuickView*

SB 543 – GYPSUM AS A COAL COMBUSTION BYPRODUCT: De-

fines synthetic gypsum from a forced oxidation process as a Coal Combustion Byproduct (CCB). Defining this gypsum as a CCB will allow it to be used by farmers as a soil amendment with lessened regulation. SB passed the Senate and is assigned to the House Environment Committee. *Source QuickView*

SB 1726 – TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS: As amended, changes the notice requirements and other protections for landowners involved in a transmission line project. It would require public meetings for any project that utilizes the normal ICC REVIEW PROCESS. It also requires the ICC send notice to owners of land that are in the right-of-way of a proposed project via registered mail. The bill also requires utilities send a second notice to landowners, no less than 3 and no more than 15 days before any survey or land use study activity begins. This second notice can be made by phone, email, or registered mail and must inform the landowner of the date when the activity will occur and must inform them that they or their agent can be present when the activity takes place. SB 1726 passed the Senate and will now be sent to the House for consideration. *Source QuickView*

HB 3523 – AG IMPACT MITIGATION AGREEMENTS FOR WIND ENERGY: HB 3523, as amended, represents an agreement with wind industry representatives. It requires that commercial wind energy operators of commercial wind energy facilities enter into an agricultural impact mitigation agreement with the Department of Agriculture outlining construction and deconstruction standards and policies designed to preserve the integrity of any agricultural land that is impacted by construction and deconstruction. It also requires the agricultural impact mitigation agreement to be signed prior to any public hearing required prior to a siting decision of a county or

municipality regarding the commercial wind energy facility. The bill was amended so it would not impact two current projects that have filed for permits with their respective counties and have had, or will soon have, public hearings on the projects. HB 3523 passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and is on Second Reading in the Senate. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 920 – COUNTY WIND ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY: SB 920 was amended to clarify that the authority to regulated wind energy provided by the Illinois Counties Code can be applied by County Boards in both zoned and unzoned counties. SB 920, as amended, is in the Senate Assignment Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 1378 – OIL AND GAS NOTICE: SB 1378 was amended to change the notice requirements for hearings or other proceedings under the Oil and Gas Act. It requires the permittees under the Act to provide the IDNR their current address. If IDNR cannot reach the permittee by certified mail, then a notice of a hearing or proceeding on a well can be published in a newspaper. The notice published must include the wells at issue, the date and time of the hearing, and the nature of the hearing. SB 1378 passed the Senate and is assigned to the House Environment Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 1485 & HB 2607 - RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD: Amends the long-term renewable resources procurement plan. It would require that 35% of the electricity demand for Illinois be sourced from renewable resources by 2030, up from 25% by 2025. The bills would also increase Illinois' efficiency policies for homes and businesses by 50%, with a goal of achieving a 20 percent demand reduction by 2025. Finally, the bill amends the Environmental Protection Act requiring that upon promulgation by the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency of a final rule regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing electric generating units, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall be authorized to implement a cap and trade program or similar mechanism to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. SB 1485 passed the Senate Environment Committee and is on Second Reading in the Senate. HB 2067 was re-referred to the House Rules Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 734 – MANDATORY GMO LABELING: This bill would require all foods containing any ingredients made from biotechnology crops to be labeled as "Genetically Engineered". The label would be mandatory, establishes a negative perception of biotechnology, and is contradictory to FDA food labeling guidelines. SB 734 was held in the Senate Committee on Environment & Conservation. Source [QuickView](#)

HB 208 - DESIGNATES PUMPKIN PIE – STATE PIE: Designates pumpkin pie as the official state pie of the state of Illinois. HB 208 passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and is on second Reading in the Senate. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 800 – DESIGNATES SWEET CORN – STATE VEGETABLE: Designates sweet corn as the official vegetable of the State of Illinois. SB 800 passed Senate and has been assigned to the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

HB 2690 – SALE OF UNPASTEURIZED MILK: Allows for the sale of raw, unpasteurized milk on the premises of the farm where it is produced. Also requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to adopt rules regarding the sale and transaction of raw milk. HB 2690 passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Public Health Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

HB 218 – DECRIMINALIZING CANNABIS POSSESSION: HB 218, as amended, makes the possession of

15 grams or less of any substance containing cannabis (marijuana) a civil law violation with a minimum fine of \$55 and a maximum fine of \$125. This represents a reduced charge from the current Class C, Class B and Class A misdemeanors. The bill also requires any records associated with the civil law violation to be expunged from the violator's record every six months. Finally, it makes corresponding changes to various statutes for operating vehicles under the influence of drugs or alcohol. HB 218 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is on Second Reading in the Senate. Source [QuickView](#)

SB 1885 – VEHICLE CODE LICENSE EXEMPTION: Will allow non-licensed operators of road machines and farm tractors to operate that machine for the exclusive purpose of conducting farming operations. The bill would allow an individual operating a road machine or farm tractor for farming purposes, to do so while their license or permit has been suspended or revoked. SB 1885 passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Transportation: Regulation, Roads, and Bridges Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

HB 352 – BOBCAT HUNTING: Removes the prohibition on taking bobcats in Illinois. Establishes a hunting season for bobcats which will be set annually by the Director of IDNR between November 1 and February 15. It provides the season limit for bobcats shall not exceed one bobcat per permit. Requires that pelts of bobcats be tagged in accordance with federal regulations and IDNR may require harvest registration. It requires a fee of \$5 for each bobcat or trapping permit. HB 352 passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Source [QuickView](#)

WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AG SPONSORS 2015

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SPEAK OUT!

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