



Happy February!

It is hard to believe that we are in late winter already. Soon it will be planting time.

Let's pray this spring isn't as wet and challenging as last year. Please plan to participate in our events across the State of IL this year. Our 2020 calendar of events has developed into another awesome year. You will not want to miss out!

I enjoyed seeing those of you that were able to attend the annual meeting. We appreciate you taking time out of your busy life to attend.

I would like to welcome Jessica Schneider as our new IAW Secretary and Kelli Martin as our VP of Advocacy. Our IAW Board looks forward to working with you ladies.

A great big thank you to Sheila Hunt for her years of service as the IAW secretary, to Shirley Bartelt for her years of service as the IARC Treasurer, to Eleanor Zimmerlein for being our VP of Advocacy for IAW and Priscilla Koser for her years of service as the President of IARC.

Congrats to the following women for their accomplishments:

Mary Meinhardt as the Hall of Fame winner

Karen Westbrook at Business Person of the Year

Kelsey Vance as Farmer of the Year

Thanks for your dedication to agriculture!

Please enjoy each officer and regional director's contribution to follow. Each of these ladies play a very important role in our organization which collectively makes IAW better every day!

Deb Schultz IAW President

dschultz@northcentralbank.com

815-440-6708

**Renew your membership today
by clicking [here](#).**

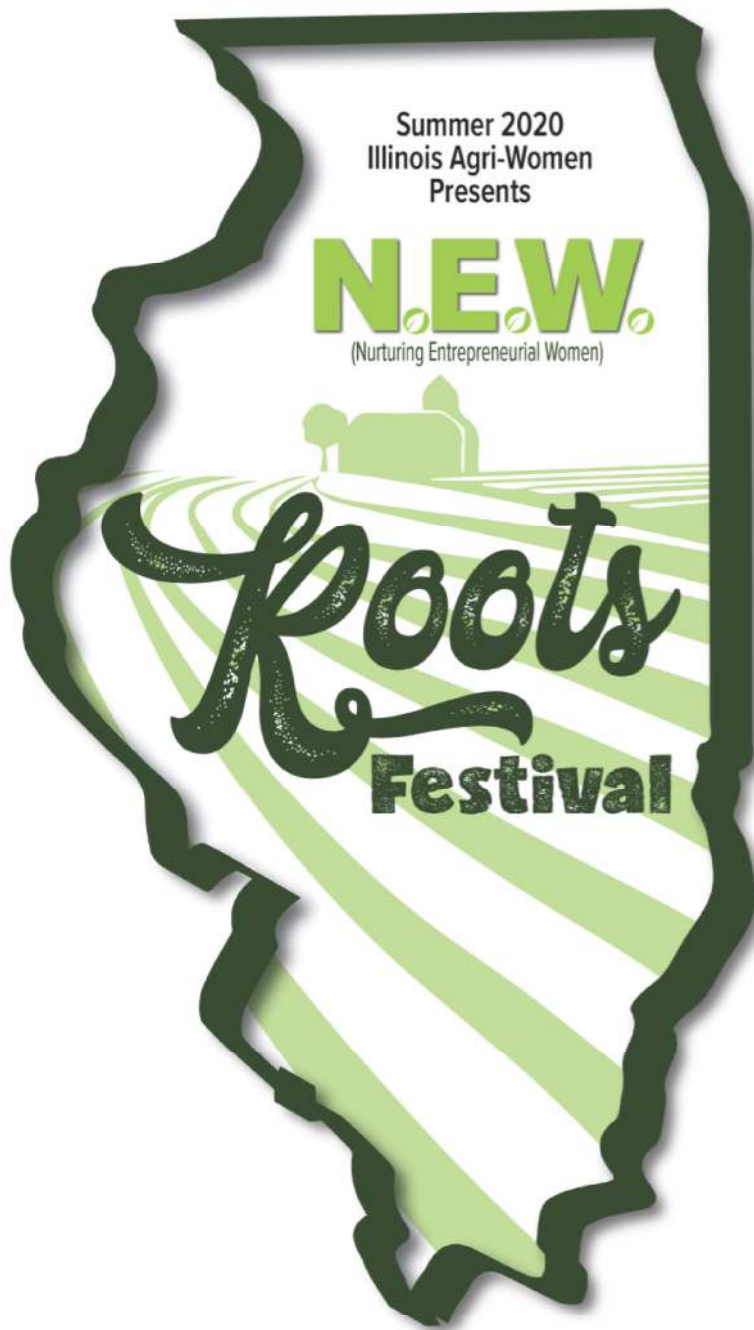
On February 12th, the Illinois Agri-Women met at Illini FS in Urbana for the 2020 Annual Meeting. I would like to thank Illini FS for hosting us and sponsoring our lunch! We were all treated like queens! Illinois State Trooper Bridget gave an outstanding presentation on her role as a Crime Scene Investigator and provided us with safety and self-defense tips. We learned so much and greatly appreciate the sacrifices our law enforcement makes every day to keep us safe! Our Annual Meeting was packed with information from each of our executive board members on the state of our organization, scholarships, upcoming events including the NEW Roots Festival and much more! Please take note of the 2020 IAW Schedule of Events listed in this newsletter. My goal for 2020 was to have these dates all set by the Annual Meeting so you can mark your calendars and share them with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or have any ideas for future tours and/or meeting locations. It is never too early to start planning! I look forward to connecting with each of you throughout this year!

Respectfully,
Kelsey Vance
IAW VP of Education

ILLINOIS AGRI-WOMEN

2020 EVENTS

Feb 12	IAW Annual Meeting	Illini FS, Urbana
Mar 3	Ag Legislative Day	Capitol, Springfield
Mar 5	Professional Development Event	Richland CC, Decatur
Mar 6	Women Changing the Face of Agriculture	Richland CC, Decatur
Apr 3-6	AAW Mid Year Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
Apr 7	Spring IAW Tour and Meeting	Richland CC, Decatur
May 31 - Jun 3	AAW Legislative Fly-In	Washington D.C.
Jun 27-28	NEW Roots Music Festival	Devon Amphitheater, Decatur
Aug 18	State Fair Agriculture Day	Springfield Fair Grounds
Sept 11	Regional Event	Southern Illinois
Nov 5-8	National AAW Convention	Bozeman, Montana
Dec TBD	Winter IAW Tour and Meeting	Hoerr Nursery, Peoria



NEW Roots Festival

June 27 – 28, 2020

The Devon G. Buffett Amphitheater

Nelson Park – Decatur Park District

2686 East Cantrell Street

Decatur, Illinois (Macon County)

Plan to join in the fun and educational opportunity this summer at the 1st.....hopefully, annual...NEW Roots Festival. If you have an interest in being part of the planning committee, please let Penny Lauritzen at lauritzen@farmestate.com know immediately. The committees are pushing forward now that the logo and new website have been developed. Visit at: <https://newrootsfestival.com/>

Committee Options:

1. Site Committee – Chair: Penny Lauritzen
2. Artists Committee – Chair: Jenny Larkin
3. Entrepreneur Classes Committee – Chair: ??????
4. NEW Vendors Committee – Co-Chairs: Deb Schultz & Kelsey Vance
5. Public Relations Committee – Chair: Sarah Fernandez, Assistant: Kelsey Litchfield
6. Grant Application Committee – Chair; Katie Betz

ILLINOIS AGRI-WOMEN ANNOUNCE 2019 AWARD WINNERS

As has been the practice for numerous years, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has allowed trade associations and commodity groups to recognize annual award winners on Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair.

The last two years, the IDOA has limited these groups to one award per entity to be announced during the ISF Ag Day festivities. Illinois Agri-Women have chosen to recognize our annual Hall of Fame Winner at the state fair followed by a formal presentation of the annual winners at the next annual meeting. I wanted all IAW members to be aware of these changes.

All that being said, the 2019 IAW Award Winners are as follows: Hall of Fame-Mary Meinhart, Outstanding Business Woman-Karen Westbrook and Outstanding Farmer-Kelsey Vance.

The Illinois Agri-Women "Hall of Fame" Award is presented to an individual who has served the organization for many years with enthusiasm, visionary leadership and community involvement while encouraging and developing skills and talents of other members. Mary Meinhart has served as Treasurer of IAW for numerous years with skill and gentle grace. She has assisted her husband and family with Meinhart Farms pork and row crop production while serving on various committees with and for her church, county and local school district.

In 1975 Mary served as President of Jasper County Porkettes later to be known as Illinois Pork Association Women. She received the Mark of Excellence Award from Illinois Pork Producers, served as Secretary for Jasper County Board of Health, President and Secretary of Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District, a graduate of Annie's Project and Managing for Today and Tomorrow, participated in developing the Master Farmer Program and is a member of the Farm Bureau Activator Program. Congratulations to Mary from IAW!

Karen Westbrook is being recognized as the Outstanding Business Woman for 2019. Her knowledge of all things related to policy and procedures and bylaw details is second to none. She assists in keeping IAW on track and within all regulatory guidelines. She has served as Secretary and been a member of many committees. Karen also serves on the Annie's Project Foundation Board and has been instrumental in strategic planning as well as program planning, development and management.

She is an entrepreneur, consultant and always willing and able to assist IAW in tackling issues for clarity, purpose and plausibility. Congratulations to Karen from IAW!

And finally, the 2019 Outstanding Farmer goes to Kelsey Vance. Kelsey is currently serving as IAW Vice President coordinating meeting times, places, tours and guest speakers as well as various other special events. She has also served on various committees always advocating for women in agriculture whenever she gets the chance. Not only is Kelsey part of the Syngenta team in Central but she plays a significant role on her family's grain and specialty crops

farm in Tremont, IL, assisting with planning, planting and harvesting.

She is passionate about agriculture and is happy to assist her customers in adding value to their bottom line through the Syngenta line of products and expertise. The Illinois Agri-Women organization continues to grow and expand its membership. Which in turn will have a larger impact on all facets of agriculture in the State of Illinois. IAW is blessed to have the skill set and positive attitude which Kelsey brings to the table. Congrats to Kelsey from IAW!

Submitted by IAW Past President Diana Ropp

WCFA

WCFA 2020 – Richland Community College, Decatur, IL

March 6, 2020

Gayle Baker reports that student registration is at 512 and will close February 21st. Our goal is 650.

Career fair registration is at 37 with registration closing on February 21st. Our goal is 50 companies and agencies. College students attending Thursday PD and Friday will guide students around the RCC Campus and be eligible for the Scholarship Match project.

We currently have 18 companies providing Scholarship Match Funding of \$500 that will be matched by an anonymous donor. \$1,000 scholarships will be presented in the name of the donor company to the students that attend Thursday evening and assist as guides on Friday.

Tammy Miller reports there are 11 community colleges and universities setting up in the college fair with approximately 4 more to register before deadline.

Kristina Jacobs reports that sponsorship funds are stronger for 2020. Katie Betz will assist with PowerPoint presentation of sponsors & the company logos to stream on the day of event. Gayle Baker has completed the website updates for 2020 as info becomes available. Prairie Farms Dairy and IL Pork Producers will provide in-kind support of breakfast items and pork for lunch, which is greatly appreciated.

Sarah Michaels and Kelsey Litchfield have been coordinating with ACT of U of I for social media and table tent design/printing for event. The students will be in the media room and scattered throughout event to take pictures.

Katie Betz reports that the student backpack bags with WCFA logo have been delivered and are ready to be stuffed with any handouts.

Lynn Curry reports scholarship winners that can attend will be introduced at the beginning of the presentation in the auditorium at 1:15 and again at 1:30.

We hope you will be able to join us. If you can assist in any of the following areas, please register so you will be included in the meal count:

Welcome Students at the Mueller Student Center Entrance & pass out backpack bags

Student Registration/Mileage Reimbursement

Professional & Breakout Session Registration

Host Scholarship Winners

Host ACT and Media in Media Room

Host Panel Discussion Participants & run presentation in the Auditorium

Coordinate the media production in the Auditorium, WAND – TV coverage, Full Circle video

Host FFA State Officers

Coordinate CEU's for ag instructors

Bell to announce movement of students

Direction of Students throughout building

See Everyone on March 6th!!!!

Membership News

Hello Illinois Agri-Women!

The end of March is the dues deadline for your 2020 membership renewal with IAW. We appreciate all of you as vital components to the IAW membership! It's a true joy to share our common thread of our involvement in agriculture! It is such a pleasure to gather together when we are able throughout the year, as well as throughout the state, to share in fellowship and learning together. It's a great way to continually develop ourselves professionally in our interest of Illinois Agriculture. Please use the link below to either renew electronically or via mail. Also available is a link to a printable flyer to share with a friend to invite them along to join us!!

Please contact me with any questions/concerns that might arise!

Nathalie Schmidt

IAW Membership

naschmidt.70@gmail.com

(815)433-0175

View, Print or Share the new [IAW Printable Flyer](#)

IAW On-line and Printable Membership Renewal

<https://www.illinoisagriwomen.org/join-us/>

IAW Logo Wear

Interested in showing your Illinois Agri Women support?

Have a favorite shirt where you would love to add our IAW logo?

Click the link below to begin shopping and or reach out to Kaleel's to answer any of

your logo wear questions.

Shop Now

Southern Region Coordinator - Jill Biehl

I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Jill Biehl and I am honored to be the Southern Region Coordinator. My family live on a livestock and grain farm in Belleville, IL.

I have scheduled a southern region tour for 9/11 at SIUC. Stay tune for more details. I would love to see the Southern Region representation in IAW grow. Please contact me at jill.a.biehl@gmail.com or 618-520-9005 if you know of individuals I should reach out to.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Trade:

- USMCA
 - New market access opportunities to Canada for dairy, poultry, and eggs
 - “NAFTA 2.0”
 - Expect to take effect mid-2020
 - Trump signed end of Jan.
- Phase one deal w/ China
 - Signed Jan. 15
 - China commitment to import ~12.5 billion more in ag products than in 2017 and 19.5 billion more next year
- Beef industry – positive outlook with improved access to trade with South Korea/Japan
- Coronavirus
 - Expected to affect China trade deal - uncertainty with purchase of ag products from China
- Concerns with Trump looking into trade with the EU – another trade war?

- ASF – African Swine Fever
 - Protecting America’s Food and Agriculture Act – hire 240 ag specialists and canine support per year until reach appropriate numbers, already passed house

Infrastructure:

- Infrastructure is a priority for upcoming year - quoted from various legislators and Pres. Trump
- Broadband to rural communities
 - Expect legislation to be pushed out of house in next couple months
 - Billions of dollars proposed to improve rural broadband in coming years
 - Precision ag, technology support in rural areas
 - Illinois – Gov. Pritzker – announced \$50 million in matching grants for internet broadband in Illinois by 2024

Submitted by:

VP of Advocacy

Kelli Martin

IAW 2020-2021 Approved Budget

Illinois Agri-Women Budget - Approved 2/12/2020 through 2021		
Income		
Donations Unrestricted	\$50.00	
Dues: IAW/AAW Membership	\$4,750.00	(95 memberships x \$50)
Total Receipts	\$4,800.00	
Expenses		
Ag Day-IL State Fair	\$200.00	
Ag Day- IL Legislative Day	\$225.00	(fee and up to 10 participants)
Awards	\$300.00	(estimated 6 awards at \$50/each)
Dues AAW Memberships	\$2,850.00	(95 memberships x \$30)
Filing Fees	\$15.00	
Insurance (Renewal Due every third year for \$447 - next due Oct 2021)	\$149.00	
Office Supplies Stationary, Postage & Misc	\$100.00	
Web Site Development/Maintainance	\$250.00	
Paypal expenses	\$124.68	(95 memberships x 75% paying online x \$1.75 expense)
QuickBooks expense	\$360.00	(\$30/month)
Miscellaneous	\$226.32	
Total Expenses	\$4,800.00	

UPDATED IAW BY-LAWS

During the February 12, 2020 IAW Annual Meeting the By-Laws and the updates proposed via email back in December were voted on and approved as changed.

Anyone who would like an electronic copy of the By-Laws can request a copy from the new IAW Secretary Jessica Schneider via email at jessica.schneider@compeer.com

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