

[View this email in your browser](#)



Quarterly Newsletter 4th Quarter - 2021

IAW is an organization of farm and agri-businesswomen promoting a better understanding of agriculture and the family farm system.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Holidays!

I hope this newsletter finds all of you healthy!

As I wrap up my term as the IL Agri-Women president, I want to take a minute to thank the awesome IAW board that I have had the distinct pleasure of working with.

These awesome women are great advocates and representatives for this organization. I love what each and every person brings to the table for input, ideas and fulfillment of the plans for growth and further development of this organization. You can look forward to exciting things happening within our organization in the future.

As you had read previously, AAW is working to get back on track. As I participated in a recent AAW Board meeting, I am happy to report I feel things are moving forward in a very positive way. I am excited for the renewed direction this national organization is headed.

I want to share the remaining tips from an interesting article by Lindsay LaNore:

Quick Wins in Leadership.

8. **Set short-term and long-term goals.** Revisit them frequently. We're often good at setting goals but fall short on our check-ins with them. Make a commitment to progress.
9. **Never assume you know everything.** Stay open.
10. **Talk less and listen more.** Knowledge is power. Besides, the more you talk, the more likely you are to say something you'll regret.
11. **View missteps as opportunities to learn.** Admit you made them. Ask what went wrong and why. Learn from them. Then move on.
12. **Embrace listening.** Acquiring a new skill expands your horizons. It also helps keep your mind agile.
13. **Always remember the value of networking.** It invites new ideas and it gives you a chance to help others.
14. **Be willing to challenge your own thinking.** Recognize unhealthy or rigid thought habits and practice getting outside your comfort zone.
15. **Dress professionally.** Present yourself the way you want to feel and set the standard for everyone around you.
16. **Avoid office drama.** Focus on goals, treat everyone equally and be a positive role model.
17. **Appreciate the value in every job you've had along the way.** Every step you took made you who you are today, and it's a great reminder that every team member plays an important role.
18. **Ask for help when you need it.** Don't be afraid to reach out. It can give the other person a boost, too.
19. **Let others shine.** It costs you nothing.
20. **Thank people who help you.** As we all know, appreciation takes no time-and it goes a long way.

Deb Schultz-IAW President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Illinois Agri-Women!

As harvest has wound up and the fall tillage is happening during this time around our farm, I remember my THANKFULNESS for how agriculture has always provided so generously for our 5th generation farm. Even as I do that during our time of winding down, I have come to be aware that agriculture NEVER sleeps. There are aspects to our personal operation that already are alive for the next season. In this industry the wheels keep moving onward to next year's potential! It is ALWAYS busy, isn't it? I find I am so thankful for all aspects of agriculture, those I know and are part of our operation and those I am not fully aware of. It matters to all of us! We know that we all have each other to become mindful of all aspects of agriculture in this network of Illinois Agri-Women. You all are so good at what you do! It is a joy to gather together and we can be so thankful for those opportunities we have been able to have whether in person and via virtual meetings in this past year as we navigate the pandemic. Our Membership year is winding down. IAW is so thankful for each of you! Looking ahead our Membership Renewal season is just a short couple months ahead. We look forward to your continued involvement and if you know of an Agri-Women who does not yet know about IAW, invite her along to our Annual Meeting on February 18th, in Bloomington, IL. I am looking forward to our new year ahead.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season,
Nathalie Schmidt
IAW Membership Chair
(815)433-0175
naschmidt.70@gmail.com

Legislative Update

Happy Holidays! Please find the link to the legislative update below:

https://www.illinoisagriwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/IAW_02Dec21_Update.pdf

Kelli Martin - Legislative Chair

Please find the slate of officers below that the Board is recommending. Nominations will be taken from the floor during the annual meeting. The meeting will be held on February 18, 2022 at the 12:30, in Bloomington, IL at the IL Corn building. All nominees from the floor must meet the qualifications for the office as written in the Bylaws. Please see website for further information. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work on this project.

December 6, 2021

Madam President:

The Nominating Committee of IAW has met. We unanimously present the following report for the 2022 IAW Annual Meeting:

President:	Kelsey Vance Neville
1st Vice President for Education:	Elizabeth Mitsdarffer
Treasurer:	Anjie Erbsen

The nominees have all agreed to stand for election. Each nominee meets the requirements to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Westbrook, Chair
 Jennifer Waters, Member
 Nathalie Schmidt, Member

Please contact Karen Westbrook, Policy and Procedure Chair if you have any questions or concerns.

kbtbconsulting@gmail.com

Karen Loeb Westbrook
 217-741-3320 (cell)

ILLINOIS AGRI-WOMEN AWARD NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Presented by: Diana Ropp

HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE!!!!.....

Nominations are being accepted at this time for the 2022 Annual Awards. Illinois Agri-Women recognize outstanding contributors to Illinois agriculture and our organization annually. Awards presented each year are: Hall of Fame, Outstanding Agri-Business and Outstanding Farmer. *One does not have to be an IAW member to be nominated for an award.*

Awards will be presented at the 2022 IAW Annual Meeting and our Hall of Fame recipient will also be recognized at the Illinois State Fair Ag Day festivities. To get the year aligned with ISF Ag Day, I'm designating 2020 a COVID year and we will present 2022 awards in the same year. A description of each award and past recipients are listed below.

Hall of Fame: this award is for members of IAW as well as non-members who have made high-impact contributions to Illinois Agriculture through her cooperation and leadership efforts.

Outstanding Illinois Woman Farmer: this award is for a woman who is involved with production agriculture and has exhibited exemplary skills in managing and operating her farm. Open to all women farming in Illinois. IAW members and non-members may be nominated.

Outstanding Illinois Agri-Business Professional: this award is for a woman who works in agribusiness and has exhibited high standards of service excellence and exceptional leadership skills in her job. Open to all women who hold an agribusiness position in Illinois including teaching and/or has Illinois as part of their sales territory. IAW members and non-members may be considered.

**Nomination applications should be no longer than 400 words and will be accepted through January 1, 2022.*

Past IAW award winners include:

YEAR	HALL OF FAME	OUTSTANDING FARMER	AGRIBUSINESS
2021	Penny Lauritzen	Nathalie Schmidt	Ange Ertson
2020	C O V I D		
2019	Mary Meinhart	Kelsey Vance	Karen Westbrook
2018	Ruth Hambleton	Susan Wall	Mallory Tolley
2017	Linda Swiercinsky		
2016	Christina Mosher Wilson	Mary Meinhart	Karen Blatter Schieler
2015		Patricia Yeagle	
2014	Eleanor Zimmerlein	Meg Cavanaugh & Brenda Besse	Amy Rogier
2013	Trenna Graobowski	Suzy Eilers	Jennifer Tim
2012	Joyce Watson	Shirley Bartelt	Brigitte Franzen
2011	Jean Ibendahl	Joanie Schonoe	Evelyn Brandt Thomas

WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE (WCFA)



Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Update

WCFA 2022 Planning Committee will meet by Zoom on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 9 AM. We will be reviewing the interest from companies to participate in the career panels and deciding the final event format at Carl Sandburg College on March 4th, 2022.

The proposed schedule for the event can be viewed here: <https://womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WCFA-2022-Schedule.pdf>

An example of the career panel rotation can be viewed here: <https://womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Career-Sequences.pdf>

**Career panel rotations are subject to change based on the feedback we receive from our professional presenters.*

*** Companies are encouraged to bring more than one segment of career representatives for the career panel lineup (i.e., human resources, marketing, sales, researchers, agronomists, etc.).*

[SIGN UP HERE TO INDICATE YOUR INTEREST IN BEING INVOLVED IN WCFA 2022](#)

The WCFA committee also hopes the panels will provide an opportunity for professionals to network! As the panels are established, the professionals and our volunteer moderators will be introduced to one another to allow opportunities to connect and coordinate discussions. Planned starter questions will be provided to help with panel presentations. The afternoon will offer an opportunity for companies to set up a booth for students who wish to visit your organization.

**** This form IS NOT the official registration for WCFA. The committee is trying to garner information on interested professionals and which panels they could be a part of. We will send out final registration for the event later.*

Thank you for your continued support of WCFA! Our event would not be successful without the support of our professionals and sponsors. If you have any questions or comments, please email illinoisagriwomen@gmail.com.





The N.E.W. Roots Festival date is pending for 2022! Be on the lookout for more information to come!

The N.E.W. Roots Festival is looking for women you have started their own business ventures that would be willing to be featured on our website and in promotional material for this event. Our goal is to shine a light on women who have chosen to become entrepreneurs leading up to our event. Please reach out to Penny Lauritzen for more information!
lauritzen@farmstate.com

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!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 IAW Annual Meeting

Date: February 18, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Illinois Corn/IL Corn Marketing Board, 14129 Carole Dr, Bloomington, IL 61705

Virtual Option Available. Registration is required to receive meeting information.

Schedule

10 AM: Welcome, Light Breakfast

10:15 AM: Introduction, Illinois Corn

10:45 AM: Keynote: "You Have the Power", Emily Reuschel

Noon: Lunch

12:30 PM: IAW Meeting

You can view the **[meeting agenda and meeting details here.](#)**

For more information on the Meeting or to register please follow this **[link!](#)**

We are so excited to be getting back together as group!

[Access IAW Member Tools](#)

